

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 646.—VOL. XI.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

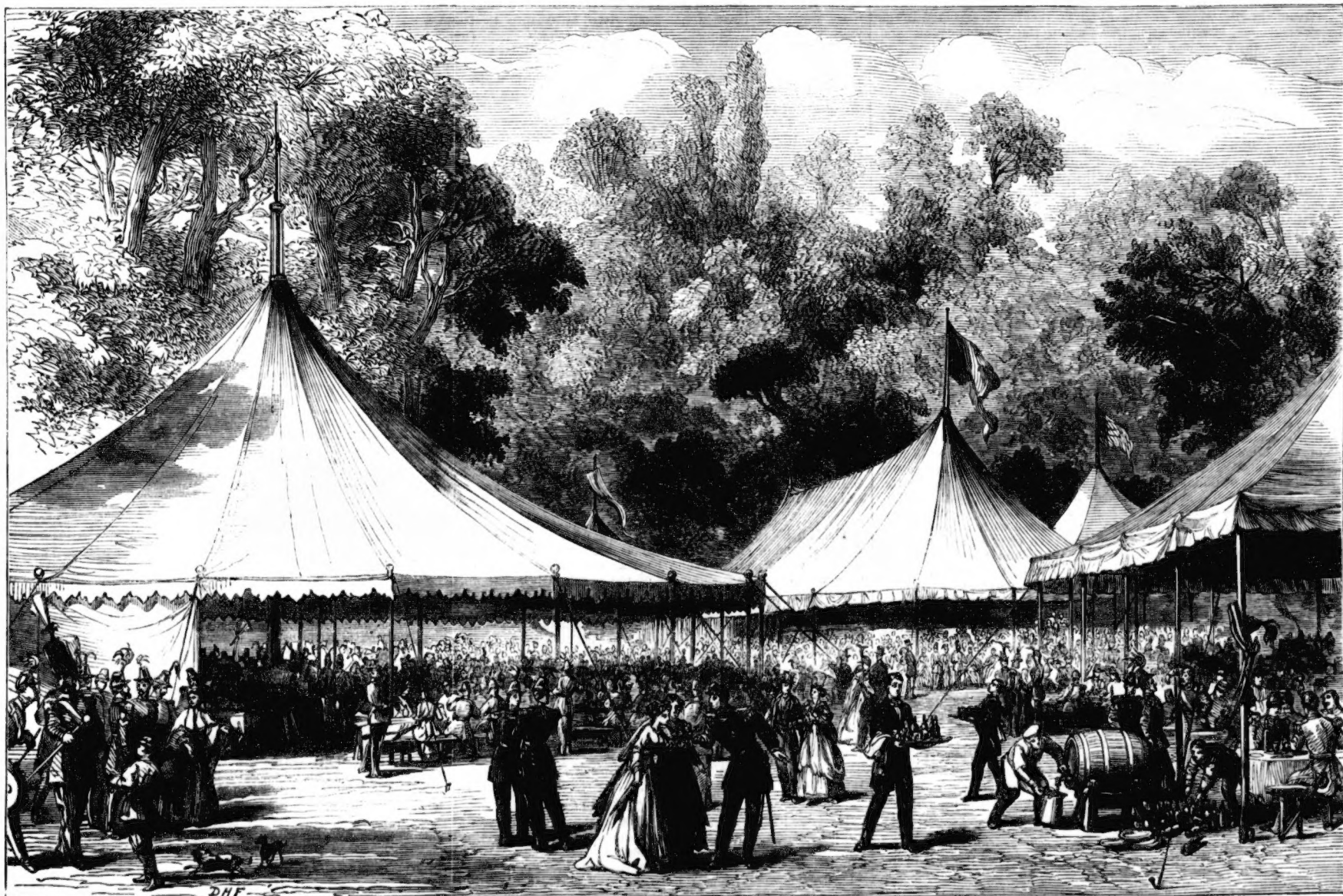
THE SULTAN AND HIS ADVISERS.

To many travellers the return home after a long and interesting excursion abroad is a very painful thing indeed. If those who cross the sea cannot change their minds, they can at least change the current of their thoughts; and the Sultan was, doubtless, not thinking of Servia and the cession of the Belgrade fortresses when he was at the Wimbledon Review, nor of the Cretan insurrection when he was at the ball at the India Office, nor of the Eastern question generally when he was at the Opera. Wherever he went he was complimented in formal verse, as at the Opera-house and the Crystal Palace, or in a set speech as at Guildhall, on the excellence of his government, on the peace and tranquillity now reigning throughout the Ottoman Empire, on the progress of art and science in Turkey, and on many other things which his Majesty must have been very much astonished to hear of. For a time, when he was receiving the homage of the most powerful persons in England, and when he was giving away sums of five hundred and a thousand pounds to railway officials and the directors of impoverished companies, he must have imagined himself almost as important a personage as he is represented to be in the congratulatory odes addressed to him by the poets of the Royal Italian Opera and the Crystal Palace. His Imperial host at Vienna would be sure not to do anything that could have the effect of dissipating the agreeable impression produced upon him in England; nor would the enthusiastic Hungarians be likely to damp his spirits. It is only after quietly settling down in one of his own too numerous palaces, that the Commander of the Faithful, suffering from the inevitable reaction consequent upon

dissipation of all kinds, will be forced to reflect on the exact position of affairs in his own empire. As to his finances, they have so long been declared to be in a hopeless condition, that the mere continuance of the evil may lead us to believe that it is at least not fatal. If government in Turkey could not be carried on in spite of a bankrupt exchequer, government in Turkey would have come to an end long ago. Moreover, Turkey, whatever the Turks themselves may be, is by no means worn out. It is full of undeveloped resources, and of resources which require nothing for their development but a little labour. If it is a disgrace to the Turks that Turkey, with the richest and most fertile soil in the world, should produce so little; it must also be some consolation for them to think that in the great natural wealth of the country they have always something to fall back upon. It was only the other day that Christians were disqualified by their religion from holding land in Turkey at all. Even now, there are many parts of Turkey where practically it would be impossible for Christians to work their land, even if they were allowed to go through the very simple process of paying for it. But the laws relieving the Christian subjects of the Porte from all civil disabilities must, if Turkey is to live much longer, be observed in spirit as well as in letter; and one of the first economical effects of such an observance would be a great increase in the value and productiveness of land. Christian cultivators would become proprietors, and, once having land in their absolute possession, would know how to turn it to account. By degrees, the capacity of the whole country for paying taxes would be raised, and the periodical insolvency of the State might gradually be brought to an end.

However, the financial condition of a country is always dependent to a very great degree on its general policy, as its policy, in its turn, must often be regulated by the state of the finances. The converse of the celebrated saying, *Faites moi de la bonne politique, je vous ferai des bonnes finances*, will no doubt hold good; but it is very evident that, unless the general direction of affairs, in a State as in a household, be good, the effect must soon be felt in the exchequer. Accordingly, whatever concessions may be made to the Christians of Turkey, and however intelligently they may profit by them, no permanent good will be done unless the political condition of the empire can be raised.

Stated as a general proposition, to raise the political condition of Turkey appears something very difficult indeed. But, in the first place, we might abstain, and endeavour to persuade other Governments to abstain, from an interference which can only have the effect of lowering it. Since the Sultan of Turkey was declared by his self-constituted heir to be in the position of a sick man, he has had to listen to advice, to conform to prescriptions, and even to undergo operations; and the effect of all this may well have been to weaken him. If he were left altogether to himself, it seems to be feared that he might go wrong; but if he is worried, over-excited, and in the end very much fatigued, by contradictory counsels, he cannot by any possibility go right. Probably Russia and France would, on this subject, agree in principle with England; but Russia would propose that France and England should cease to give advice, France would be in favour of turning Russia and England out of the consultation-room, and England would



THE BELGIAN RIFLEMEN AT HOLLY LODGE.

naturally prefer that her recommendation should alone be attended to.

Unfortunately, the end of all those squabbles is too often that the doctors make a compromise by which each saves his own dignity, but at the expense of the health, and perhaps the life, of the patient. As in Molière's comedy, one doctor will tolerate the use of the lancet or the application of leeches, if he, on his side, may be allowed to administer a purge. But it must be admitted that the worst offender in the medical and surgical way is not England, who has generally contented herself with advising temperate living, and lately, by way of exception, change of air. France and Russia are the quacks from whom the Sultan really has suffered, and the prescriptions of the former are especially open to suspicion, inasmuch as Russia openly proclaims herself the inheritor designed by Providence of all the sick man's possessions. If Russia wishes to weaken Turkey in one place, and proposes, for instance, to cut off a limb in Servia, France resists the proposition, and recommends a similar operation in Egypt. England wishes the Sultan to be left alone, and maintains that both Egypt and Servia are in a sufficiently healthy condition. However, after a time, France and Russia seem to have come to an understanding. France is willing to join Russia in demanding the cession of the Belgrade fortresses, but on the distinct understanding that she is in return to do as she pleases in the matter of Egypt. The result is, that both Servia and Egypt become only nominal dependencies of the Porte—which means that at the first great crisis they will both be lost to the Sultan. If England were to oppose both the Russian and the French projects, she might drive those Powers into one another's arms; and the position of the sick man would be worse than ever. But if this system of bargaining between the two really designing counsellors of the Sultan be carried on much longer, no internal reforms, however excellent, can save the Turkish Empire from the dissolution which in all probability awaits it.

THE BELGIANS AT HOLLY LODGE.

PERHAPS the most really enjoyable of all the entertainments provided for the Belgian riflemen during their visit was that offered by Miss Burdett Coutts at Holly Lodge, Highgate.

The Belgians mustered very strongly at the appointed rendezvous, the grand quadrangle of the cavalry barracks, Albany-street, and were there received by a guard of honour of the 29th (North) Middlesex Rifles, under the command of Colonel Whitehead. It was nearly two o'clock when they started, and they reached Holly Lodge at a quarter past three. The roads for the whole distance of their march were thronged with people, and flags were hung out along the line of route. At Highgate itself the excitement culminated. The quiet suburban village was crowded; the ladies all wore bouquets of yellow and scarlet; the men cheered and the church bells clashed out a merry welcome as the Belgians marched up. At the foot of the hill was a sort of triumphal arch, composed of two masts, draped with the Belgian colours, with trophies of flags half way up, and connected by a scroll, festooned with flowers, bearing the device, "Welcome to Highgate." As the Belgian column reached the foot of the hill the shouts of welcome were increased, and, indeed, almost drowned, by the shrill cheers of one of the numerous schools which owe their existence to the liberality of Miss Coutts, and who were stationed just inside the grounds.

In the mean time the guests invited by Miss Coutts to an "at home" "to meet the Prince of Wales and to receive the Belgians," as the cards of invitation stated, had assembled, as requested, shortly before three. A few minutes after that hour the band of the Coldstream Guards, which was stationed at the lower entrance to the extensive and beautiful grounds, struck up the "Brabançonne," and the company assembled at the lodge knew that the Belgians had arrived. Shortly after Princess Mary and Prince Teck arrived, and were followed by the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, the former better known to English readers as the son of Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, and who was wounded at the Battle of Custoza. A very long pause then ensued, as it had been arranged that the Belgians should not march up to the house to be received by Miss Coutts until the Prince of Wales arrived. It was not until past four o'clock that all idea of the Prince coming was at an end, and the Belgians, who, after their long march, were waiting wearily at the part of the ground where they had entered, received orders to march up. This they did in military order, the Chasseurs at their head, followed by the artillery and Civic Guard, their excellent bands taking up their station in front of the house, which may be termed the presenting point. The drive to the house was lined by the numerous distinguished visitors of Miss Coutts; while in the balcony in front of the house were Prince and Princess Teck, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, Earl and Countess Granville, and many others. Among the guests were the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Bishop of London, the Lord Mayor, &c.

Miss Coutts stood upon the steps in front of her house and bowed an acknowledgment to the salute of the Belgians. Many of the staff had been introduced to her previous to the march past, and many of them were presented at its termination.

The Belgians were now marched down to immense marquees erected for the occasion. An excellent band, composed of members of the police, played to them as they marched down, and the band of the Coldstream Guards was stationed in the vicinity of the dining-tents. These marquees were of immense size. The centre one, capable of dining 1200 persons, was 166 ft. by 86 ft.; while the side tents, which could accommodate 500 each, were 130 ft. by 96 ft. The central tent was lined with red and white striped cloth, and had a very fine effect. An octagon tent, lined with red and white and surmounted by the crown, had also been erected, and in which it had been intended that the Prince of Wales and the Royal party should have partaken of a collation; but in the absence of the Prince this portion of the programme was not carried out. A considerable delay took place after the Belgians had taken their places before the arrival of Miss Coutts and her party—who had in the meantime partaken of coffee and refreshments, which were laid out in the spacious conservatory adjoining the house—gave the signal to commence the banquet. This was, as might be anticipated, all that could be desired.

While dinner was going on Miss Coutts made a tour of the tents, and was loudly cheered by her guests. Princess Mary and the rest of Miss Coutts's party shortly afterwards went down to the tents, and some very good singing was given by professionals who had been engaged for the purpose, but whose voices in the open air were hardly heard except in their immediate vicinity, owing to the general talking and the clattering of plates and dishes. Several speeches were made, and Miss Coutts's health was drunk with great enthusiasm. At seven o'clock the party broke up and proceeded towards London, the fortunate getting places upon busses, but the great majority having to walk.

The *Independence Belge* thus sums up its record of the visit of the volunteers to England:—

The Belgian Civic Guard who responded to the kind invitation of England

have now returned to their homes. We have related the various incidents of their journey and the enthusiastic ovations which were accorded them by the English. To those who were not witnesses of this grand international fête, the accounts in the Belgian papers have given, we imagine, a grandiose idea of those public manifestations; but those who took part in them have generally found that these hasty recitals were considerably below the truth. This is because it is difficult to give to these sketches, highly-coloured though they be, sufficient splendour to satisfy those who witnessed the things themselves, and because the reality, notwithstanding the fame of English hospitality, has surpassed, and by much, the expectations of the most sanguine. There, where it was only necessary to repay a civility, the Belgians received a triumphal welcome. They were decreed the honours of a truly Royal reception; and everyone, the nobles as well as the Crown, the crowd as well as the authorities, united in testifying the cordial and affectionate sympathy which their presence inspired. The gratitude of all Belgium, after such demonstrations, can be in no sense doubtful. Nevertheless it is, as we think, the duty of the press to express it. For our part, we have followed with great delight all the incidents of this fraternisation of our citizens with a people possessing so many affinities for ours. We are happy to see the bands drawn more closely which unite us to this great English nation, whose institutions have been the model for those of free Belgium, a position which has aided in securing our independence, and which we plume ourselves upon following in the track which she has opened to the modern world, the only road which nations can travel without danger, that in which order and liberty move side by side. For the rest, Belgium only asks to live in harmony with all her neighbours. She has just fraternised with England; she would have fraternised with any other nation, for she knows no distinction of peoples. It would be well if nations would mutually avow the same sympathy which she accords to all; peace would then be something more than an intermittent hope.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress of the French are going on a visit to the Emperor of Austria at Salzburg. Their visit will only be of forty-eight hours' duration. Subsequently the Emperor of Austria will go to France while the Emperor Napoleon is at Châlons. The two Emperors will return from that place to Paris, where great fêtes will be given in honour of Francis Joseph. The *Patrie*, which gives this information, says that after the departure of Francis Joseph the Emperor Napoleon will go Biarritz, "where," it adds significantly, "not Count Bismarck, but Baron Beust, the Austrian Premier, will arrive on a week's visit."

The *Moniteur* of Monday publishes the following article on the present foreign relations of France:—

Several French and foreign journals publish statements calculated to disturb and disquiet the affairs of commerce and industry. It is said that our international relations tend to authorise the presentment of a conflict more or less removed; the formation of two camps and military preparations is announced. These reports are unfounded, and they owe their origin and diffusion only to hostile passions, interested speculation, or lamentable credulity. The truth is this, that the Government of the empire has no diplomatic question of a nature calculated to modify its peaceful and friendly relations with various Powers. The Cabinet of Florence has already taken energetic measures to protect the Papal frontier. The September Convention will be strictly carried out; no new camp is about to be formed, either in the interior or on the frontier. The classes of 1860-1 have been all sent back to their homes since June 1. The active army is actually only composed of the four contingents of 1862-5, inclusive. The contingent of 1866 will be incorporated at the end of August, but it is the intention of the Government at that time to allow the contingent of 1862 to return to their homes. The effective strength of the cavalry is considerably increased on account of the purchases made last April; but the Minister of War has determined that of these some 8000 or 10,000 horses shall be disposed of for agricultural purposes, and this measure is now in course of execution. The Government is confident that these precise statements will dissipate the feeling of uncertainty which has pervaded public opinion.

The French papers do not seem to be much reassured by the above note. They still believe in a pending quarrel.

In Sunday's sitting of the Senate, after a speech from the Duke de Persigny on the spirit of the Constitution, Baron Dupin explained the past history of Prussia, and said that she had formed a northern confederation in Germany offensive to France. The speaker asserted that the ambition and perseverance of Prussia did not lead him to believe that, after the successes already gained, she would now stop; but he hoped that the decisive moment would now arrive when the large States, to avoid the perils of the future, would unite together and limit the empire of Prussia to acceptable proportions. Then alone would they be able to reduce their military expenditure. Then would France and the other nations be more happy and more rich in their peaceful rivalry. After voting the Budget, the Session of the Senate was declared closed.

An official explanation has been given by France to Italy in respect to General Dumont. In effect, it is that General Dumont informed the Government that he was going to Rome on private business, and he was asked to make some inquiry as to the cause of the desertions from the Antibes Legion. In what he said when he got to Rome he went much beyond his instructions, and his statements are disavowed by the Government.

ITALY.

Signor Rattazzi has given assurance to the Italian Parliament that the explanations of the French Government as to the mission of General Dumont to Rome are satisfactory. He added that he had ascertained that the reports of what General Dumont had said were incorrect. The whole of the papers connected with the affair are to be laid before the Parliament. In Florence the mention of Italy and the Papal Convention by the French official journal is evidently regarded as an impertinence to be resented. The *Opinione* says that France should remember that it is not Italy alone which has to observe the convention. France, too, is bound by it; and she ought not to break it, even in spirit, by allowing French Generals to go to Rome to inspect Pontifical troops.

Cardinal Antonelli has forwarded a circular despatch to the Papal Nuncios at Catholic Courts calling their attention to the recent debates in the Italian Parliament. The Cardinal states that the attitude of the Italian Government is greatly at variance with the engagements which have been made with the Pope. The despatch also refers to the preparations made by Italian volunteers to deprive the Pope of his temporal sovereignty.

PRUSSIA.

The Berlin journals do not appear to be satisfied with the note in the *Paris Moniteur*. They declare that it is evasive in tone, and does not meet the actual state of affairs frankly. In short, the Germans seem to think they have good cause to distrust France, and call upon their own Government to be prepared.

RUSSIA.

The Russians appear to have adopted in their provinces in Central Asia a system of organisation similar to that which has proved so successful in Algeria. While Russian officials occupy the highest offices, the domestic government of the people will be administered by natives.

ROUMANIA.

Advices from Bucharest state that a commission of inquiry into the deaths of certain Jews at Galatz has positively ascertained that the Roumanian authorities are in no way to blame for what had taken place. Two persons sentenced to expulsion by virtue of the Code Napoléon were sent to Turkey on account of their statements that they had come from that country. They were returned to Roumania by the Turkish authorities, and the Commission has discovered that the commander of the Turkish barque gave orders that the prisoners should be thrown into the Danube. The Roumanian population of Galatz rescued eight of their number. These facts are proved by the depositions of eye-witnesses, and by the testimony of the persons saved.

THE UNITED STATES.

Congress has appropriated 1,000,000 dollars, for the execution of the Reconstruction Act. President Johnson, in reply to the Congressional inquiry, sent a message to the Senate stating that the Reconstruction Act will necessitate the appropriation of 14,000,000 dollars; and that Congress should consider whether, by abrogating the civil governments in ten States, the National Govern-

ment would not become responsible for the debts legally incurred by those States before the rebellion, amounting to 100,000,000 dollars, and thereby greatly impairing the national credit. The refusal of Congress to guarantee those debts would be a violation of good faith and a repudiation of the legal State debts by the National Legislation.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Stevens has introduced a bill providing for the government of the South by three Civil Commissioners, to be appointed by Congress, and to be independent of Presidential, military, or judicial control.

MEXICO.

A despatch from Vera Cruz, sent by the United States Consul there, announces that the city, with the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, are in the possession of the Liberalists, and that the Imperialists and foreign troops have all left the country. Mexico city having fallen, the Liberalists may be considered as having undisturbed possession of the entire country—so far as any foreign enemy is concerned. But, just in proportion as they have defeated the Imperialists have their own internal dissensions increased. It is the general opinion in Washington that the official career of Juarez will be brief, and that he will be pulled down in a short time by some rival chief, and perhaps meet the same fate as Maximilian. Escobedo has a hankering after the purple, and may be his successor. A chieftain named Gomez and another named Canales have raised a new revolt, and are now collecting their forces to recapture Tampico, and this new movement against Juarez is assuming formidable proportions. In Northern Mexico, Lozada, with some congenial spirits, and at the head of 12,000 men, have declared themselves independent of Juarez and in favour of converting that part of Mexico into an independent Republic. Marquez is reported to have joined them. Juarez has more danger to apprehend at home than from abroad, for, although filibustering expeditions are being organised in various parts of the United States, the strong arm of our Government will probably interfere effectually with them before they set foot in Mexico. These filibustering movements are of so great notoriety that Congress has called upon the President to transmit all the information in the possession of the Government upon the subject; and General Banks's committee of foreign affairs in the House of Representatives has under consideration a resolution requesting the President to issue his proclamation warning all citizens of the United States against engaging in these expeditions, and requiring the proper officers of the Government to prevent their departure. There are also rumours that the United States squadron in the Gulf of Mexico is to be strengthened; but upon this subject nothing definite has yet transpired.

THE WEST INDIES.

The town of Basseterre, St. Kitt's, with the exception of the Government buildings and about six houses, was totally destroyed by fire on July 3; 1000 houses in all were burnt, and 5000 people are rendered homeless. The neighbouring islands promptly sent supplies of food to prevent the people from starving. The black population behaved badly, committing depredations and plundering the unfortunate whites. Only one life was lost. Three men are in custody, one of whom confessed to firing a house which led to the entire destruction of the town.

TWENTY-SEVEN COMMUNES IN GALICIA have been completely devastated by inundations. The Municipal Council of that city has voted 5000 l. (2l. 50s. each) in aid of the sufferers. The damage done to the railways is estimated at 7,000,000 l.

THE QUEEN OF HANOVER.—Several of the German journals have stated that the Queen of Hanover has been repeatedly invited to leave the Chateau of Marienburg and the country, or to accept the following conditions:—First, to discharge the persons of her suite and her domestic servants, and to accept a household chosen by the Prussian Government; secondly, to hoist the Royal Prussian flag on the chateau; and, thirdly, to allow a detachment of Prussian troops to mount guard at the palace. Her Majesty vainly remonstrated, and showed that she was residing in her own house; the King of Prussia at length intimated, by a formal order from Ems, that the Queen must leave the country and her chateau if she refused to accept the conditions. Three days were given her for consideration; she, of course, yielded, and with the youthful Princess Mary, has left Marienburg for Vienna.

CANADA.—The new Confederation began its course on the 1st. inst., constituted of four provinces—Quebec (late Lower Canada, or Canada East), extending over 210,020 square miles; Ontario (late Upper Canada, or Canada West), 121,260 square miles; New Brunswick, 27,105 square miles; Nova Scotia, 18,660 square miles; making an area of 377,045 square miles. The population was 3,690,561 in 1861, and may now have reached about 3,800,000. At the Census of 1861 the number of men capable of bearing arms (between the ages of twenty and sixty) was 653,567. The mercantile marine comprised, in 1865, 6575 vessels of 943,533 tons, of the value of 32,844,069 dol.; a marine exceeded by only three States—the United Kingdom, the United States, and France. The imports amounted last year to 75,270,566 dol.; the exports to 71,951,699 dol. The public debt of the Confederation amounts to 77,500,000 dol. The ordinary revenue in 1865 was 13,023,169 dol.; the ordinary expenditure 14,173,071 dol. If the Confederation should eventually include Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Hudson's Bay and north-west territories and British Columbia, the total area will amount to 3,369,300 square miles, and will exceed the whole territory of the United States.

NEWPORT MARKET REFUGE AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—The third annual report of this charity contains one very interesting feature—namely, the establishment of an industrial school for destitute London boys. Upwards of forty boys, either orphans or the children of vicious or destitute parents, have been received into this school since its opening, in February last, and are clothed, boarded, lodged, educated, and instructed in tailoring, shoemaking, and instrumental music. There is, moreover, accommodation for twenty more boys, if sufficient funds were forthcoming. One of the earliest promoters of the school, who has succeeded in raising £600, offers, in addition, 100 gs. provided nine similar sums are raised by the end of this year. This offer has been responded to by Mrs. Gladstone; W. Jones Lloyd, Esq.; the Rev. E. Douglas Tinsling, and J. A. Shaw Stewart, Esq., but does not appear altogether to have met with the amount of success it deserves. The school is in the immediate vicinity of Pall-mall, and already does much, and is likely to do more, to clear the streets of those wretched little objects which almost every night meet the eye in that neighbourhood—miserable, squalid children, apparently but half alive, crouched under the porticoes of the clubs or shivering on doorsteps. The school, which is at the end of Gerard-street, Soho, will well repay a visit. The cost of supporting the school and the refuge is estimated by the committee at £2500; but last year the refuge was open from Jan. 1 to June 1, and again from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, and during that period 16,275 nights' lodgings were given, 40,748 rations issued, and 11,520 relieved from the soup-kitchen, which has proved a useful adjunct to the refuge. During the past year, too, 300 persons have received permanent benefit through the agency of the charity. A large outlay has, moreover, been incurred this year in purchasing and fitting up the school premises, which requires to be met.

THE ROMAN QUESTION.—The Florence correspondent of the *Telegraph* writing on the 23rd ult., says:—"I hear from very good authority that Signor Rattazzi is definitively identifying himself with the 'party of action,' having coquetted with the Left until he is considered to be one of them, at least upon the Roman question. He avows, as I am told, his desire to solve this great difficulty at all hazards, and those are not wanting who will bear him out in any steps he may take towards bringing about the fall of the temporal power and the unification of the Papal States with the rest of Italy. Baron Ricasoli, as you know, is altogether opposed to precipitation in this matter; he is the inheritor of Cavour's opinions, and desires to effect the desired union or annexation by a gradual process, through the influence of public opinion. He says that in good time Rome will fall, like a ripe pear, into Italy's lap; but that this consummation, devoutly to be wished, must be attained by a moral victory, achieved without violence, through the steady march of progress and enlightenment. The tone of the Italian press is one decidedly encouraging to the ardent youths who are burning to attempt a *coup de main*, and there is a good deal of quiet preparation going on for a dash across the Papal frontier. Moreover, the Roman Committee are working hard to rouse their fellow-citizens from the Catholic lethargy in which they seem to be plunged. I do not expect much from that quarter, however; whatever is done will, I think, be done from the outside, and I should not be at all surprised if the menaced movement were to result in a pitiful *fiasco*. Garibaldi is posting about the country fulminating against the priesthood, and doing his very best—which is a good deal in a country where he enjoys a truly exceptional prestige—to fan the flame; secret enrolments are taking place; many a young Tuscan gentleman has his red shirt ready, but the terrible bugbear, 'What will Napoleon say?' keeps many patriotic Italians back, and frightens very heartily even those who have committed themselves to action by promises, which, however, I have not a doubt they will redeem with their blood when the signal shall be given." The Roman National Junta has issued a proclamation of great length, dated July 17, calling to arms for the overthrow of the Pope's temporal power.

THE SIEGE OF MEXICO.

"ONE of the Besieged" sends to the *Times* the following account of the state of the city of Mexico during the late siege:—

Thinking that, from the recent tragic events in this unhappy country, a good share of public interest will be attracted towards it, I venture to send you a short account of the terrible siege the capital has just sustained—one of the worst, perhaps, taking into account the size of the place, that this century has seen in the whole world. This can easily be imagined when it is known that during the sixty-seven days the siege lasted no food entered the city, containing over 200,000 inhabitants, who had not only failed to make any previous provision or preparation for it, but during the preceding two months had been unable to get the usual supply, owing to the partial blockade of the place, and also to the shortsighted policy of the Government in seizing many of the Indians, who brought provisions, to serve in the army, and thus deterring others from venturing to the market with their goods. Necessaries of life, therefore, rose to a fabulous price, bread being from 10s. to 12s. per lb., meat of lean milk cows 4s. per lb., horse-flesh from 9d. to 1s. Indian corn or maize, which is sometimes sold for 8s. a *carga* of 300 lb., was £30; lean fowls 8s. each, eggs three for 2s. Many of these prices were merely nominal; it was often impossible to get flour or maize for love or money, as there was no regular sale of them in the markets. Those who had them were obliged to keep it a profound secret, for immediately it was known the Government pounced upon them and gave them to its soldiers; they had, in fact, the power to enter any house to search for provisions. I have seen soldiers go into the miserable huts of the poor and bring out a few handfuls of maize that the inmates had carefully hoarded up. Hundreds, if not thousands, died of starvation; and those who were left had hardly strength to crawl up to you in the streets to ask for alms. The scenes at the *panaderias*, or bread-shops, before their stocks were exhausted, which happened about three weeks before the termination of the siege, was most heartrending. There were only three open in the whole city; the doors were crowded at one or two o'clock in the morning in order to get a good place by the time they were open. All day the streets leading to them were crowded. Outside one near where I live five persons were found dead one morning, having dropped down from exhaustion; many others perished by the crush, or by the swords of the soldiers put there to guard the place. There was sometimes an opportunity of leaving the city, of which thousands availed themselves, at the risk of being shot on the way; in fact, seven women and children were killed by one shell while half way between the two camps, for white flags received no respect, the only chance being that both sides were wretched marksmen.

While the poor suffered so fearfully the rich had also their share, forced loans never to be paid and contributions following in quick succession. Those who refused to pay were put in prison, without anything to eat or drink, until they did; while others who hid themselves had their houses guarded to prevent the entry of any food for their wives and children. Nearly half the money, moreover, thus collected went into the pockets of the chief officials. All commerce, of course, was suspended, the only life in the streets being the movement of troops from one point to another, the press-gang going about seizing almost anyone they could catch, and searching houses for horses and the carriage of the wounded to the hospitals. It is needless to dwell on all the horrors which are common to all sieges. I cannot, however, help mentioning one that came under my notice. A poor man who had lately lost his wife and was left with three little children was seized one day by the press-gang, or *leva*, while out searching for food for his little ones, whom he had left locked up at home. He begged and prayed to be allowed to go home to let them out and give them in charge to some neighbours, or else to send and do so. This was refused him till the third day, when he found them dead. Another incident occurred at the intrenchments of the two camps. The Liberals, or besiegers, stuck up a dead horse, with a large placard, with "*Carne para los traidores*" (meat for the traitors). The besieged, or Imperials, answered by putting up an old woman who had died of starvation, with "*Carne para los cobardes*" (meat for the cowards), a stinging reproach for their not properly attacking the place, instead of trying to starve it out.

Amid all this misery, an anomalous scene presented itself every evening in the Plaza, or principal square, where the band played. Crowds of cavaleros and señoritas, decked in their best, walked about utterly indifferent to the roar of the cannon, which did not make a bad accompaniment to the music, often coming in right for the bass drum part.

We, the English of the city, have particular cause for rejoicing at the termination of the siege; for our position has been anything but enviable, as the Commander, Marquez, appointed Lieutenant-General by the poor Emperor while he was at Queretaro, is less a man than a demon, and a demon possessed of inveterate hatred to the English. It was he who murdered the English doctors at Tacubaya, a town near here, ordering them out to be shot while attending to the wounded, and who broke open the seals of the English Legation some years ago, taking out 600,000 dols. This appointment of the late Emperor was the greatest fault he ever committed; but dearly has he paid for it; for nearly all unite in saying that, had it not been for the obstinate resistance of Mexico, carried on five weeks after the fall of Queretaro, his life might have been spared. This resistance was effected by Marquez by the vilest lies—his asserting the Austrians, a chivalrous set of men, 700 strong, who fought only for their countryman, that the capture of the Emperor was only an invention of the Liberals, although he had received official reports of the fact four days after it occurred. He actually on the day of his condemnation to death ordered public rejoicings to be celebrated for his victory said to be gained over the Liberals. Five days after these rejoicings (June 21), the Austrians in the mean time being officially convinced of the fall of Queretaro and having come to terms with the Liberals, the besiegers entered the city, to the joy of all, in splendid order, without the slightest tumult or least act of violence. So far they certainly by their conduct merit the highest praise. We only hope they will continue to do so, although, from the past history of Mexico, no very sanguine hopes can be entertained. As they entered they certainly were a motley crew—most of the men in rags and without shoes, and even some of the officers in the same plight and in their shirt-sleeves, while others were decked in all the colours of the rainbow. They were nearly all, however, well armed. The day they entered the aspect of the city changed as if by magic—herds of sheep and oxen thronged the streets, making one's mouth water, cartloads of bread, and long lines of mules and donkeys laden with provisions. On the 20th, the man who had lately eaten a piece of bread would be almost looked on as a phenomenon, and pointed out in the streets. On the 21st all were hurrying home with pieces in their hands to enjoy the uncommon feast.

All commerce has assumed extraordinary briskness, and if peace last the losses and sufferings of the last six months will soon be forgotten. The argument in favour of our enjoying this peace is the almost entire annihilation of one great party—the Conservatives, or the Government of the five *M's*, as they have been recently called, from the fact of the names of the five leading men of it beginning with the letter *M*—namely, Maximilian, Marquez, Miramon, Mejia, and Mendez. Of these five, four were killed at one blow at Queretaro, Marquez being the only one left, he having hid himself in the city and hitherto baffled the vigilant search of his enemies. On the other hand, the incongruous mixture among the Liberals and the difficulty of amalgamating them threaten a continuance of disorder and revolutions. If the moderate Liberals come into power, as it is generally expected they will, these evils will be averted, and a few prosperous years may then be looked forward to.

The melancholy death of the Emperor, and the dignified, kingly manner in which he met it, have produced a profound sensation here even among many of the Liberals; his disinterested and chivalrous conduct, as also that of the handful of Austrians who stuck by their Prince to the last against overwhelming odds, will meet with admiration throughout the civilised world.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £13 4s. was voted to pay the expenses of the institution's life-boat at Ryemouth, in putting off, on the 16th ult., in a strong gale of wind, with the view of rendering assistance to the crew of the brig *Ranger*, of Newcastle, which was totally wrecked off Budleigh Salterton. The life-boat, in crossing the bar, where a heavy sea was breaking, was repeatedly filled with water, and had four of her oars broken. She, however, behaved very well under these circumstances; but while the boat was on her way to the wrecked vessel, the crew were rescued by means of the rocket apparatus, and the life-boat was thereupon signalled to return to her station. Rewards amounting to £2 18s. were also granted to the crews of the society's life-boats at Fraserburgh, Arklow, Cromer, and Teignmouth, for various services during recent heavy gales. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore boats for saving life from different wrecks on our coasts. It was reported that the institution had recently forwarded new life-boats to Llandudno (Wales), Sheringham (Norfolk), and Stronsness (Orkneys). Several of the railway and steam-packet companies had kindly given a free conveyance to the boats. It was also stated that the late Jacob Nathan, Esq., of Plymouth, had bequeathed £50 to the institution. Legacies had also been received from the executors of the late Miss Caroline N. Oxenham, of Kensington (less duty), £180; and the late Mr. Edwin Bagshaw, of Nottingham, £25. Titus Salt, Esq., of Bradford, had presented to the institution £620 to put up an additional life-boat station. £300 had also been received from *Routledge's Magazine for Boys* Life-boat Fund, to defray the cost of the surf life-boat now being built for Calster, Norfolk, the amount of which had been principally raised through the zealous exertions of Edmund Routledge, Esq., the editor of this very instructive periodical. Payments amounting to £1486 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. New life-boat houses were ordered to be built at Kessingland, in Suffolk; Cadwilt, in Cornwall; and Bembridge, in the Isle of Wight. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats to the society on their recent visits to some of its life-boat stations on the coast. The proceedings then terminated.

THE SIMLA MILITARY SCANDAL.

(From the "Times.")

EVEN at a busy political time the public will be able to spare some attention for the affair of Sir William Mansfield and Captain Jervis, the conclusion of which is recorded in some papers just ordered by the House of Commons to be printed. The most important of these is a despatch from the Duke of Cambridge to Sir W. Mansfield, commenting in terms to which few officers in so high a station have had to listen on the errors of which the Indian Commander-in-Chief has, in the opinion of his superior at home, been guilty. The case has been followed with so much interest both in India and at home that, though it partakes of the nature of a private scandal, we need no apology for recurring to it; and, indeed, had it been before unnoticed, the publication of a document so remarkable as the Duke of Cambridge's despatch could not be allowed to pass without remark. The principal features of the case are still fresh in the memory of our readers. Captain Jervis, of the 106th Regiment, was one of three Aides-de-Camp of Sir William Mansfield, and in September, 1865, assumed the charge of his household, in accordance with what appears to be an Indian usage of doubtful policy and taste. The Aide-de-Camp, who is said to have been high in the favour of his commander, entered on the discharge of duties which it is difficult to distinguish from those of a steward or bailiff. In a memorandum drawn up by Mr. Plowden, counsel for Sir W. Mansfield, it is remarked that the household of the Commander-in-Chief in India ranks in size and importance next to that of the Viceroy, since it has to meet the demands of continual public entertainments. "The officer in charge, or controller, directs two or three houses in different parts of the country, the personal camp of the Commander-in-Chief when his Excellency marches, and is responsible for the military guard and escort, besides, perhaps, one hundred servants. He has under him head servants of every description, and such other assistants as may be necessary. Unlimited trust is placed in him regarding household expenditure, and it would be his duty to check any irregularities in the house, whether on the part of officers of the personal staff or of the servants." From this description it will be seen that the managing Aide-de-Camp's duties are sufficiently onerous, and the sums that must pass through his hands very considerable. But, besides these duties, Captain Jervis, with the consent, if not at the request, of the Commander-in-Chief, undertook others which are hardly consistent with the dignity of the military character. "It had long been desired by his Excellency," says his Excellency's counsel, "that a private farm should be established for supplying his table with mutton and poultry." It is a common practice in large households in India to keep such an establishment, and thus be independent of the local markets. So Sir W. Mansfield had his farm at Simla, and Captain Jervis was set to manage it. In addition, therefore, to directing "two or three houses in various parts of the country," preparing for "continual public entertainments," superintending camps and military escorts, managing "perhaps a hundred servants" and "head servants of every description," the confidential Aide-de-Camp had to address his energies to the fattening of sheep and the hatching of chickens and ducks for Sir W. Mansfield's household. Moreover, as the residents at Simla follow the old fashion of country places where markets are irregular, and help each other with joints or poultry, Captain Jervis found himself occasionally the purveyor to a large part of the community. When it is added to this that Captain Jervis, in accordance with an agreement with the Commander-in-Chief, was engaged in the building of some officers' quarters on Sir W. Mansfield's property, it will be acknowledged that he had his hands full of work and was conducting a very various and extensive business.

All at once there is a change, and Captain Jervis, from being trusted and esteemed, becomes the object of what looks like a strong antipathy on the part of the Commander-in-Chief. This downfall is produced by the report of a servant, who declares that Captain Jervis had cheated his master, that he had compromised his dignity by appearing to keep a butcher's shop at the farm, and other matters of the same kind. The rest is sufficiently well known, and will be recalled to the memory of the reader by the Duke of Cambridge's despatch. Sir W. Mansfield took a course which is declared, on the highest authority, to have been injudicious and unkind. It is proved, even by the admissions of the Commander-in-Chief, that the highest sum at which the Aide-de-Camp's alleged defalcations could be estimated is trifling in the extreme, considering the extent of the household. It is also evident that it was in the power of Sir W. Mansfield to terminate the Aide-de-Camp's duties at any moment and to send him back to his regiment. He had been not only the agent but the confidant and the intimate friend of the Commander-in-Chief; and, even if he had eaten the head-quarters' pickles and supplied joints of meat on his own account from the farm to the Simla residents, the course which not merely charity but common-sense and self-respect suggested would have been to inquire into the matter privately, and, if necessary, to reprimand or dismiss. Instead of this, Sir W. Mansfield makes a high military offence of the matter, convenes a court of inquiry, cites the Captain before it, with an order to produce all books and vouchers; and, on his disobedience, sends him before a court-martial, not only on the charge of fraud, but of military insubordination. He is acquitted of the fraud, but found guilty of the insubordination. The Commander-in-Chief, more angry than ever, vainly endeavours to make the court-martial, which he had himself summoned, and at which he was the prosecutor, rescind its decision; and, when the members decline to do this, he disregards their recommendation to mercy, and, rebuking them for having made it, carries out the sentence to the letter by cashiering Captain Jervis.

Sir W. Mansfield is a man of cultivated mind and of no ordinary ability. He is an excellent soldier, and has rendered good service to the country in a long and distinguished career. But, with every wish to judge him favourably, we must come to the conclusion that he deserves the severe rebuke inflicted on him by the Duke of Cambridge. We have read his answers to it, and, though it is ably written, its only strong point is, that he was supported in the prosecution and in his treatment of the court-martial by the opinion of his legal adviser, the Judge-Advocate-General of the Bengal Army. But this was a matter in which a judicious commander would have risen superior to the mere legal view of things; for there is no greater error in human conduct than to act on the belief that whatever admits of the application of the law requires it. The despatch of the Duke gives the opinion of the Judge-Advocate-General, Mr. Mowbray, on the important point whether Captain Jervis was bound to produce the books before the court of inquiry. Mr. Mowbray thinks that he was not. He was the accused person before that Court, and was entitled to reserve his defence for a court-martial. If this view be correct, the principal act of insubordination was justified even according to military law, and so far Captain Jervis has suffered unjustly. But, without keeping to the strictly legal view of the matter, the Duke of Cambridge enters into the question as to the expediency of this prosecution, and decides against the Indian Commander-in-Chief. He deprecates that the first steps should have been of a nature so calculated to lead to opposition to authority, and to the necessity of bringing Captain Jervis to trial. "His Royal Highness," says the despatch, "cannot help thinking that had you, in the earliest stage of these proceedings, acted in a more conciliatory manner towards him (and, considering the long and personal intimacy of your relations with that officer, his Royal Highness is impressed with the conviction that your Aide-de-Camp had a claim to such consideration at your hands), much of what afterwards occurred might have been prevented, and a great and deplorable scandal averted." The Duke of Cambridge regrets that the Commander-in-Chief should have allowed himself to be influenced by the officers of his staff, in whose reasons for recommending a military trial he cannot concur. But the heaviest censure is reserved for Sir W. Mansfield's treatment of the court-martial. Indeed, there was so great a display of intemperance in the Commander-in-Chief's conduct at this stage of the affair that the Duke of Cambridge could hardly hesitate to rebuke it. Sir W. Mansfield not only endeavoured to procure the reversal of the Court's judgment, but also upbraided the members with treating an officer as they would not have treated

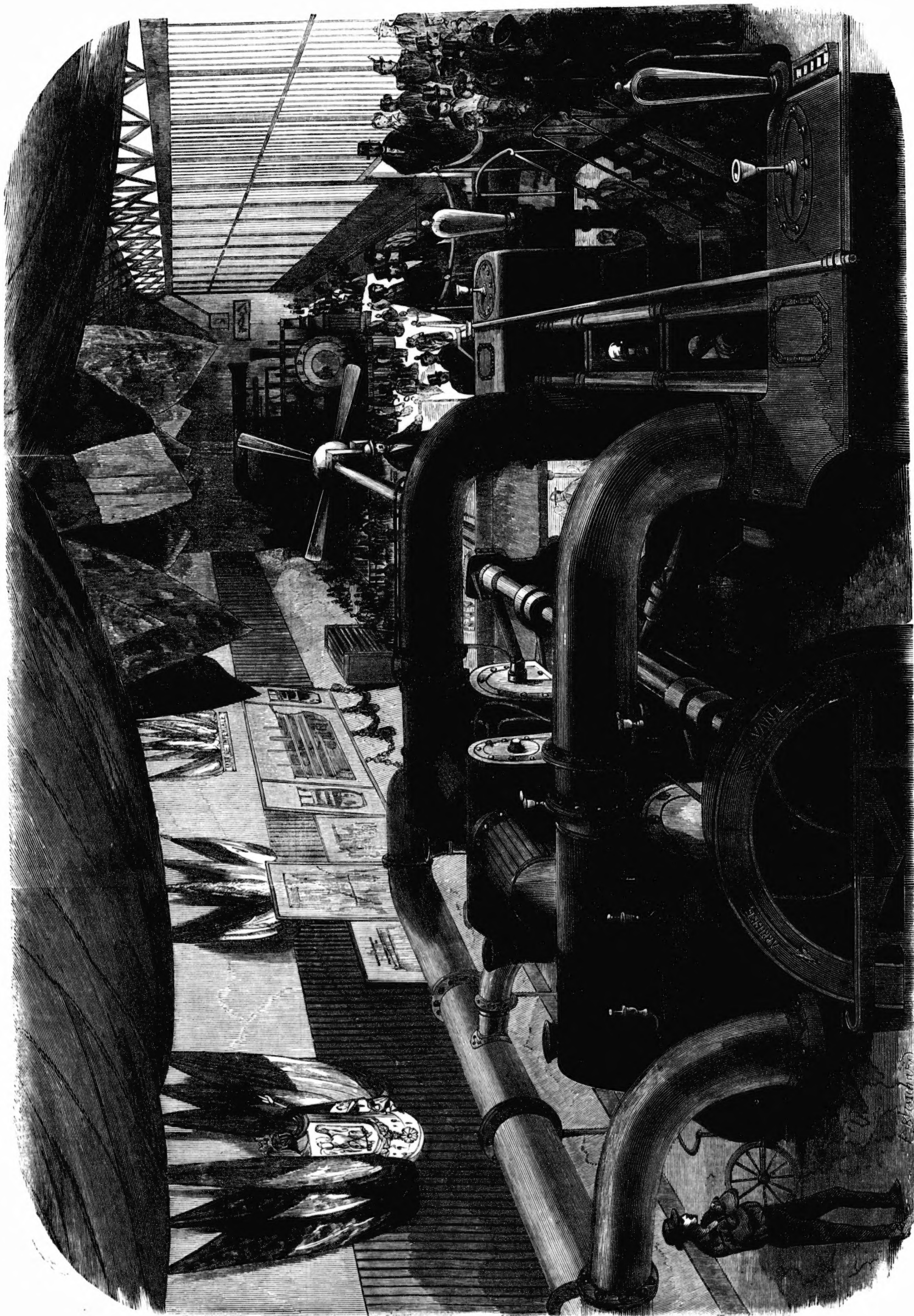
a corporal or a private. Such language would be unbecoming even if the Court had given cause for it; in the present instance it was both unbecoming and unjust. The public will regret that so able an officer as Sir W. Mansfield should, by ill-considered conduct, have drawn on himself so severe a reprimand; but no one will doubt that it was most richly deserved, and that the Duke of Cambridge deserves much credit for the ability with which he has performed a most painful public duty.

(From the "Daily News.")

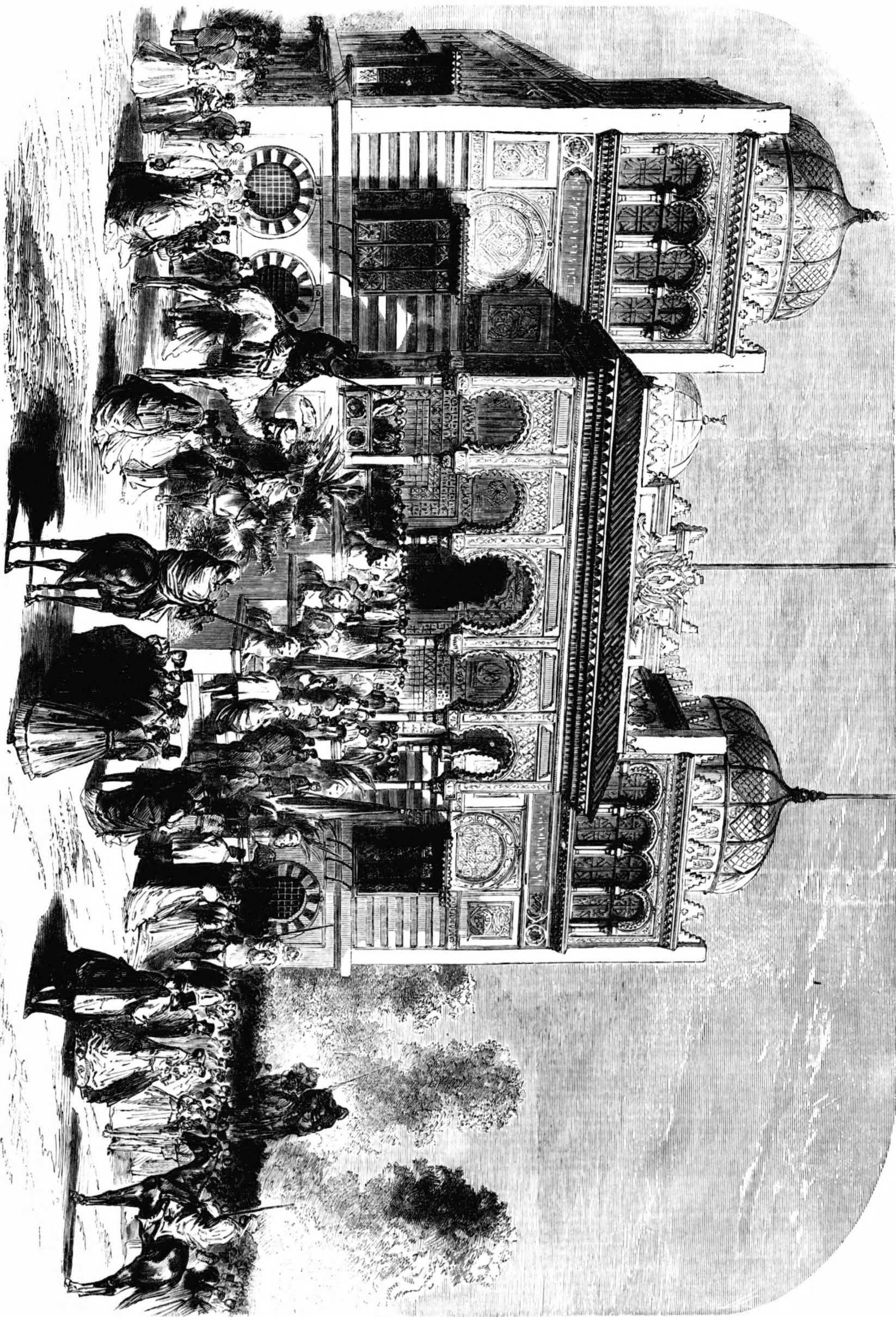
We have hitherto traced the case in its merely legal progress. But the papers now produced supply information which may, perhaps, lead to the conclusion that the hand which smote Captain Jervis so heavily was not that of the military Commander-in-Chief. The duties of an Aide-de-Camp, it has been observed, are not merely pecuniary, but social. This last branch seems to have been considered in the Commander-in-Chief's household the more important. They were defined by Sir William Mansfield in two official memoranda, published for the guidance of his Aide-de-Camps, and specially commended to the notice of the negligent Captain Jervis. These documents are characterised by the Duke of Cambridge as resembling nothing which had ever before come to his notice, and as conveying instructions in the propriety of which he is unable to concur. Nor certainly have the rights of woman ever been more strongly put by any of her advocates than by the Commander-in-Chief of India. The Aides-de-Camp are warned that "when Lady Mansfield is in India any HINT (*sic*) which she may give with regard to matters connected with the establishment—leaving of cards, reception of visitors, &c.—is to be received as if it were an absolute order from the Commander-in-Chief." The double underlining, which is represented in print by small capitals, may perhaps suggest the sex of the commanding officer by whom this memorandum of military duty was framed or revised. Again, "Whenever Lady Mansfield may require the personal attendance of an Aide-de-Camp, the latter is to be in uniform." Further instructions are given in the duties of military politeness. "On occasions of state balls at Government House or elsewhere, it is expected that the whole of the personal staff will avail themselves of the invitation afforded them. They should time their arrival so as to enter the rooms of the host in the suite of his Excellency." "Whenever the master or mistress of the house enters a room it is customary for the expectant guests and the sons of the family to rise even though they have sat down to dinner. This and other forms of social ceremony cannot be too carefully attended to in a military household." This manual of etiquette was however insufficient, and a year after a second edition was published, aimed directly at Captain Jervis by name. He is reminded that on the day before, being "Lady Mansfield's reception-day," "many visitors called, and it seems to have been forgotten by the Aide-de-Camp on duty that it was part of his duty to usher in ladies or gentlemen who called and to remain in the drawing-room while the visits lasted, performing his part in the entertainment of the visitors and showing them out again." After some further snubs, it is laid down that "his Excellency desires to signify his disapproval of the disappearance of an Aide-de-Camp from the drawing-room after dinner before the disappearance of other guests." But we cannot quote further from this curious hand-book of head-quarters' gentility. Bad temper bred bad blood, and from bad blood sprang angry charges which could not be sustained, and a course of conduct which the head of the Army has found it necessary so emphatically to rebuke. But while we deplore and pass over these ebullitions on the part of an officer of Sir W. Mansfield's rank and merit, we are bound to measure out at least equal leniency, and to show some more tenderness than the Government has done, to the unfortunate Aide-de-Camp whose neglect of his carpet—not to say servile—duties led him into disgrace, and who was thenceforth pursued with an almost feminine pertinacity of persecution. To dismiss him from the Army is a hard sequel to a long course of misfortune originating in the bad taste of leaving Lady Mansfield's drawing-room too early, or not obeying with exact military submission her Ladyship's "hints."

THE THAMES CONSERVANCY.—The conservators of the River Thames, in their report for the year 1866, just issued, state that they have proceeded with the removal of shoals and other obstructions which interfered with the navigation of the river, and they have laid down additional moorings and kept in repair and efficiency those previously in existence. The steam-boat piers and ordinary landing-places under their control have been maintained, and a new steam-boat pier has been erected at Kew. Proceedings have been instituted against persons for throwing mud into the river, and against the owners of gas and chemical works for permitting gas refuse and offensive matter to pass into the river, and seventy-seven convictions have been obtained. The Thames Navigation Act of 1866, which received the Royal assent on Aug. 6, imposed on the conservators the management of that part of the river which extends from Cricklade to Staines. The conservators immediately took measures to effect such repairs as were urgently required to keep open the navigation and preserve the course of the stream, and caused surveys of the river to be made to enable them to determine on the works of a permanent character which would be needful. By the 52nd section of the Act of 1866 the duty of scavenging the river was imposed upon the conservators, and this has been carefully attended to. Early in the current year, and as soon as the conservators had obtained the necessary information, they caused notices to be served on the proper authorities at Oxford, Abingdon, Wallingford, Reading, Henley, Marlow, Cookham, Windsor, and Eton, requiring them to discontinue the flow or passage of sewage or any other offensive or injurious matter into the river. Pursuant to the 90th section of the Act of 1866, notices were given for an Act of Parliament to extend the provisions of the Act of 1866 to the river between Staines and the western limit of the metropolis, and the bill was prepared accordingly. The conservators met 201 times during the year for the dispatch of business. The accounts for the year show an expenditure of £66,598, with a balance of £5000 carried forward.

THE CRETAN CONFLICT AND PRESENT CONDITION OF THE ISLAND On Monday evening Mr. J. E. Hilary Skinner, who has recently returned from the insurgent district of Crete, delivered an address at Willis's Rooms upon the Cretan conflict and the present condition of the island. He opened his discourse by referring to the geographical position and extent of the island, which he described as six Isles of Wight in a line, with a ridge of mountains running through the middle, and stated that its fertility was such as would make it one of the richest islands in the world if properly governed and cultivated. There was at present very little civilisation, and that little had been almost obliterated by the unhappy struggle. After a brief sketch of the history of Crete, touching lightly upon the time of the Venetian colonisation, when it was in a most flourishing condition, and dwelling particularly upon the middle of the seventeenth century, the time at which the conquest was effected by the Turks, and from which time its decay dated, he proceeded to refer to the cause of the present struggle. The population, he said, consisted of one fifth Mohammedans and four fifths Christians. The Mussulman possessed many advantages over the Christian, and there could be little doubt that the whole of the Christian Cretan population sympathised with the movement for freeing themselves from Turkish rule, in which they had made very great sacrifices, and had endured great hardships. With regard to the extent of foreign assistance tendered, he said it was not true that the movement was in any way a movement originating from Greece. All that could be admitted was that the discontent in the island found sympathy with the Greeks. He then described the manner in which he had been "smuggled" into Crete by the blockade-runner *Arcadi*, and the hospitable manner in which he was received by the Cretans, who, he said, were a band of ragged resolute men, willing to make any sacrifice for what they deemed a holy cause; who fought against superior numbers of disciplined troops, and lived upon a few scraps of dry bread. The Turks had, unhappily for the Cretan cause, been very successful; but their victories up to the present time had not been nearly so decisive as was generally believed. With regard to the reports of the cruelties practised in Crete, he could bear witness to the grossest atrocities being committed by the Turks, as well as to the unchristian retaliation on the part of the Christians. He spoke in terms of approbation of the conduct of Captain Pimm in taking in the English gun-boat 500 refugees to Greece; and stated that the number of refugees now in Greece amounted to 10,000. A great effort had been made to support them; but it appeared probable that unless charitable people came forward with assistance they would suffer much, and he therefore made an appeal to his audience for subscriptions. He then gave a detailed statement of the chief events of his visit to Crete, pointing out how badly the Cretans were supplied with medical aid, which in many cases rendered fatal what would elsewhere be looked upon as only a slight wound. Having expressed his sympathy with the people because he believed them to be a suffering people, who were struggling bravely for freedom, he concluded by remarking that the Turkish power, being unable to conquer or control the spirit of the Cretans, would, by devastation, make a desert and call it peace.



MACHINERY DEPARTMENT OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION: THE ENGINES FOR THE WAR-SHIP FRIGELAND.—SEE PAGE 76.



INAUGURATION OF THE HAREM, PALACE OF THE BEY OF TUNIS, PARIS EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE 76.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 314.

LATE HOURS.

MR. BROTHERTON, who used "to put the House to bed," is long since dead. He died about ten years ago; and no man, unhappily, has taken his office—unhappily, for really the House has got, since his decease, into alarmingly bad habits. Dr. Kitchener, the author of "The Cook's Oracle," and generally a man of science, used to have evening soirées at his house; and, being a man of sober and orderly habits, he had written over his mantelshelf, "At six come, at twelve go." But a wag, not disposed to depart thus early, after the word "go" added the word "it;" the sentence then reading, "At six come, at twelve go it;" meaning, by this slang phrase, that instead of going away at twelve the company ought to begin to be more lively; or, to use another slang term, to have "a finish." Well, something like this we do at the House of Commons. On ordinary nights the greater part of the company departs at about twelve o'clock, or half-past; and then the remainder, having gathered nearer the table, begin to "go it," or to have "a finish." And then, like other night birds, we not unfrequently get uncommonly lively, and sometimes have very exciting scenes, becoming even more excited as morning advances.

VIEW OF THE HOUSE AFTER MIDNIGHT.

And now let us pass into the House and have a look at one of these scenes. You will note that the House is nearly empty, and that most of our famous members are conspicuously absent. The leader of the House is not here. Lord Palmerston always sat it out to the last, and by his jokes and general hilarity contributed greatly to the liveliness of these "finishes." Mr. Disraeli rarely stops late. Unless there be something special coming on requiring his presence, he takes his departure about half-past twelve. Neither is Gladstone here, nor Bright, nor Lowe; nor, indeed, any of our Parliamentary swells. No game is likely to rise worthy of their prowess. Eagles stoop not at sparrows. Neither is Mr. John Stuart Mill present. Mr. Mill is one of the most constant attendants we have. He is almost always present at prayers; and, except for an hour or so, when he may be found in the tea-room, he is rarely out of his place until about 11.30, when he suddenly takes wing to catch his train to Blackheath. But so conscientious is he in the performance of his duties that he will not hesitate to let the last train go without him, if there be anything upon the paper likely to require his support or opposition. In such case he has to take a hansom all the way down. To-night, however, as you see, he is away. Lord Cranbourne, too, is gone; and General Peel. Indeed, that front bench below the gangway on the Ministerial side is entirely empty. Most of the gentlemen who usually sit there are Conservative malcontents—and why should they stop to help the Government? Neither is Lord Hotham here. The noble Lord is so assiduous an attendant, and so conspicuous from the ancient style of his dress, that he is one of the features of the House; but, unless specially requested to the contrary, he won't stop late. If a great party fight is on, he will stay for the division; but he is always the first to emerge through the doorway after the division, wrestling with all his might to head the rush outwards to get the first cab. And how he scampers to that end across the lobby! The gallant old soldier was wounded at Salamanca, was at Waterloo, and is now seventy years old; and yet see how he can run! The front Opposition bench, too, is deserted. All the ex-Ministers are gone, save one—to wit, Mr. Hugh Childers, ex-Secretary to the Treasury. He, it would seem, stops to coach and support the present Secretary, Mr. Hunt; for these two, though political opponents, are close friends, and not unfrequently go home together in a hansom; and, as both are very broad men, it has often been a wonder to lookers-on how they get into, and a still greater wonder how they get out of, such a narrow space.

THE TREASURY BENCH.

And now let us see who are here. The Treasury Bench is, then, as you see, full and overflowing. Except Disraeli and one or two more, all the Ministers of the Crown are here. The gentleman who sits at the extreme end, with his head thrown back, his mouth open, and fast asleep, is Sir James Fergusson, now Under Secretary to the Home Department. Clearly, he would be glad to go to bed, but he cannot leave. Were he or any other Ministers of the Crown to attempt to slide out they would inevitably be stopped at the door by one of the whips, with a courteous but decisive "No, you must not go, the House must be kept; and, besides, we expect a division." Sir John Pakington, our War Minister, too, is here. Being a Cabinet Minister, if he were so minded, he might pass the barrier; but, as he is wanted, he consents to stop. He is, however, clearly dozing. Our First Lord of the Admiralty, too, is present, much, though, to his dislike, for he is not strong in health, and late hours must be hateful to him.

A WORRIED MINISTER.

Sir Stafford Northcote we cannot see. Poor man! he has been worried almost to death of late, about that ball at the India Office, &c.; and, moreover, his Indian financial statement has not yet been made, and is perhaps not yet prepared. Though not here, he is probably hard at work—"under the pump" at home. Ah! you don't understand this phrase "under the pump." Well, know, then, that when a Minister goes to an office the duties of which are quite new to him, he has to have the requisite knowledge forced into him, as by hydraulic pressure, according to his capacity, by one of the permanent under secretaries or chief clerks; and when said Minister is thus receiving this knowledge we say he is under the pump. Sir Stafford was, first, President of the Board of Trade, but suddenly, when Lord Cranbourne, to his honour, resigned office as Chief Secretary of State for India, because he could not support the Government Reform Bill, party exigency compelled Sir Stafford to take the place. As he had never filled that post before, he must have been very ignorant of his duties and distressingly lacking in knowledge of Indian matters, and especially of Indian finance. We may fancy, then, what assiduous pumping there must have been to charge Sir Stafford sufficiently to enable him to appear in his new character before the House of Commons.

A MINISTER WHO IS NEVER WORRIED.

Hardy is here, of course, as measures connected with the Home Department, directly or indirectly, are sure to turn up during these late hours. See, he sits under the lee of bulky Mr. Hunt, his broad, radiant, handsome face seeming to light up the more sombre features of the bench. How well that gentleman stands his work! The work of the Home Secretary during the Session is exceedingly heavy; but Mr. Hardy shows no signs of distress. He does not appear, to use a stable phrase, to have turned a hair; but then he is of a very happy temperament, and takes to his work kindly, which is a grand thing in both horses and men.

A HARD WORKER.

And look at Mr. Hunt, our Secretary of the Treasury—that man-mountain. You would not think, to look at him, that he was formed for work, he is so bulky and heavy. He, except Mr. White, of Brighton, is by far the hugest man in the House; and yet how he can and does work! The Bishops have of late been complaining that they are overworked, and we have a bill before the House to appoint more Bishops. The impostors! conscious or unconscious. Why, Mr. Hunt does more work in six months than all the Bishops together perform in six years. No man who is unacquainted with the inner life of the House and the public departments can imagine the amount of work the Treasury Secretary, especially at the end of the Session, has to perform. He is at it not only from early morn to daisy eve, but far into the morning again. He is here when the House opens, and does not leave till it closes; and if he goes into the dining-room to refresh himself, it is snatching a fearful joy, for the chances are that he will be summoned back to the House before his dinner is over. But Mr. Hunt does his work bravely and well; and, so far from showing signs of distress, he seems to thrive upon it.

LUMINARIES OF THE LAW.

The tall gentleman on the other side of Mr. Hunt—projecting

forward so that we can just see his dark, handsome face, capped by a very shiny hat—is Sir John Karslake, her Majesty's Attorney-General, who has lately leaped up to the high position of leader of the English Bar, vacant by the promotion of Sir John Rolt. Sir John Karslake is a very handsome man, if no more. He is as tall as a moderately high lamp-post, and as erect; but here the simile is exhausted, for the right hon. gentleman has not thrown much light upon the House yet. Justice demands, though, that we should say he has not had much time nor opportunity, for until lately he was only a Solicitor-General under Sir John Rolt. Now that Sir John Rolt has gone to shine in another sphere, his successor may, occasion offering, prove to be a much brighter luminary than at present he appears to be. The fair, round, amiable-looking face turned full upon us belongs to Mr. Charles Jasper Selwyn, not yet Sir Charles Jasper Selwyn, as he will speedily be, our new Solicitor-General. A very portly man, and good-looking too, is Mr. Selwyn; and eloquent, if eloquence consisteth in inexhaustible copiousness of speech. But his eloquence is of the Chancery-Bar kind—very effective, no doubt, in court; but in Parliament not so impressive. But Mr. Selwyn is in office now, and the responsibility of office doth often restrain a too copious eloquence. At present, as you see, Mr. Selwyn's generally passive countenance has put on a very eager look. Mr. Ayrton, that dreadful *bête noir* of easy-going officials, is criticising, in his rasping way, one of the Solicitor-General's bills, and hence his unusually eager look. And now we will close our catalogue, for time and space would fail to enumerate the small fry of the Government—those who are here to keep a House, to vote, to cheer the Ministry, but otherwise to hold their tongues.

FAITHFUL WATCHDOGS.

On the other side of the House there are very few members, and it might be thought that, with such a small Opposition in front, the Government might carry almost anything; but it is not so, reader. That small Opposition, at this late hour can, if it will exercise its power by successive motions of adjournment, at any moment stop the proceedings and break up the House. A small band of members, determined and resolute, at this hour of the night, is like a small army in a narrow pass. Ten men, in such circumstances, are as potent as a hundred. Notably, too, here is Mr. Ayrton, who, like a good watchdog, is never absent from his post in the night. Questionable people are here, bent upon questionable work, for that is the light in which we look upon a Government with its compact body of myrmidons, at two o'clock in the morning. They think that, as the main body of the Opposition is gone, they may possibly shove through measures unchallenged which, were the House full, would provoke debate and opposition. But there is little hope of this, with Ayrton in the front. Let them but try on anything of that sort, and at once the ominous growl of our faithful, untiring, inextinguishable watchdog warns them back. Little do her Majesty's lieges, as they lie upon their beds, imagine how much they are obliged to faithful watchers, like Mr. Ayrton, who cannot be bullied nor persuaded to cease their barking when questionable people, bent upon questionable work, are abroad in the night! We venture to assert that Mr. Ayrton has, by his untiring watchfulness, keen scent, and timely bark, prevented more bad legislation than any man living; and that there is no man so hateful to jobbers and jobbery as is the acute, courageous, clear-headed member for the Tower Hamlets.

ON GUARD.

But now, when was this scene in the House which we have been describing? Some reader may ask. Well, no matter, for this is no unusual scene. It is a type of what is very common in the House, especially at this time of the year, when Government wishes to push on its bills, and, failing time in the day, thus steal a few hours from the night. On this night we had all the specialties of these scenes—a packed Government, a small Opposition, Government anxious to put through questionable bills, Ayrton and others on the watch to prevent. And what happened? Why, every objectionable bill was allowed to pass, whilst every questionable measure was resolutely stopped. Thus a customs' duties bill was passed, and several others of the like formal character. "Yes, let them pass, they are quite objectionable." But when my Lord Robert Montagu wished to pass his "Tancred's Charity Bill," as a formal bill, there came from our watchdogs a loud and unanimous bark. "No! bad bill; at all events, must be further discussed." For a time his Lordship was obstinate, divided the House once, and again divided, each time getting a majority; but it was useless. Watchdogs obstinately stopped the way; and the noble Lord, though not with the best humour, had to postpone his bill. The same happened to another bill—some Chancery regulation bill. "Very urgent—absolutely necessary—cannot go on without it," urged our mild Solicitor-General; but he could get no response but determined growls and shakings of heads. Mr. Solicitor-General was much discomfited and chagrined; but he, too, had to suppress all this and retreat. Meanwhile, the small hours were slipping away, and the House too; and at last, when Sir Colman O'Loughlin wanted simply to accept a Lords' verbal amendment to a very useful and good bill, the irrepressible Mr. Whalley counted out the House; and here we have a specimen of the difference between a good watchdog and a bad one. Ayrton would have let this trifle pass—would, indeed, have sanctioned it, for he has an acute and discriminating scent, and never runs wild; but Whalley is like an untrained pup, who is always running on a false scent and barking at the wrong time, as he did on this occasion. However, the House was counted out, and who will say it was not time to go home when the hand of the clock pointed to ten minutes past three?

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the Railway Companies Bill being committed, Lord REDESDALE stated that the Select Committee had struck out all the clauses with respect to the sale of insolvent lines, as to which no arrangement could be effected satisfactory to all the parties interested. The bill, therefore, now only contained the clauses for effecting arrangements; but if these could not be effected, owing to not obtaining the assent of a sufficient number of the parties, the whole would fall to the ground, and nothing further could be done. Regarding the measure as incomplete, he should, therefore, move the omission of the arrangement clauses and the insertion of others providing for a more stringent audit.

Lord CAIRNS moved to insert the words struck out by the Select Committee respecting the rights of creditors over the rolling stocks, and the motion was agreed to. Eventually the bill was passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRISH GRIEVANCES.

MR. BLAKE called attention to the subject of the dietary in the county prisons of Ireland, which he complained of as insufficient, and less than one half of that which was allowed to prisoners in England, and moved a resolution embodying an opinion in that sense.

After some discussion, and an explanation by Lord Naas, the motion was withdrawn.

Sir C. O'LOUGHLIN next proceeded, in a thin House, to call attention to the chronic grievances of Ireland, which, according to the hon. Baronet, consist of the state of the land law and the existence of the Established Church. He concluded by asking what were the intentions of the Government for the next Session in reference to the Irish difficulty.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER agreed that Parliament was about to disperse at a time when the state of Ireland was most unsatisfactory; but he had not heard from any of the gentlemen who had addressed the House that they attributed the peculiar position of that country to the conduct of the Government, or, indeed, to their predecessors in office. The state of society in Ireland, which had rendered the suspension of civil rights necessary, had arisen from circumstances which were totally irrespective of any system of government. He admitted that the relations between landlords and tenants in Ireland might be improved, and with that view Ministers had early in the Session introduced a measure which was not conceived in a petty spirit, but attempted to deal largely with the question. What was the objection which it met from the party who represented the principle of the tenant right? He did not remember a measure which was received with more capacious criticism or greater coldness. Where, then, was the encouragement to proceed further in dealing with the difficulty? The right hon. gentleman said he was utterly opposed to the destruction of the Irish Church.

He denied the assertion that Ireland had not made progress of late years; and he added that, as to the future, her Government must be, as it now was, inspired by the principle of justice and with a feeling of deference to the fair claims of the people.

Sir J. GRAY expressed his sorrow at this speech; and subsequently Lord C. Hamilton, Mr. Pim, and other members took part in the discussion.

MONDAY, JULY 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, in the absence of the Earl of Derby by reason of illness, having moved to go into Committee on the Reform Bill, Lord HALIFAX moved his amendment declaring that the redistribution scheme ought to be widened. He disavowed all party motives, praised the Government for bringing forward such a measure, and gave his complete adhesion to the enfranchisement part of the bill. He urged the Government to reconsider the distribution scheme. The smaller boroughs ought to be disfranchised, and more members given to the populous counties and to the large towns. He objected to increasing the number of the members of the House of Commons, and urged that the disfranchisement should be sufficiently extensive to provide more members for Scotland. He indicated some of the places to which he would like to see additional representation given. Amongst these were Middlesex, Marylebone, South Lancashire, the West Riding, and Bristol.

The Earl of MALMESBURY replied to the speech. First, he defended himself and the Ministry from charges which had been made against them on a previous occasion. Next, he objected to the resolution proposed on the ground that it would be disrespectful to the House of Commons to carry such a motion.

The Earl of CARNARVON severely criticised the conduct of the Government. He said he should abstain from voting if the resolution were pressed; but he should vote for Earl Grey's amendment for taking one member from each of the towns with less than 12,000 inhabitants, because it was definite.

Earl DE GREY insisted that the redistribution part of the bill had been insufficiently considered in the House of Commons, and said it was their Lordships' duty to make it more in accordance with the wishes of the people. The Duke of CLEVELAND gave his hearty assent to the resolution, and contended that it would be well if there were a nearer approach to electoral districts in the distribution of seats.

After some further discussion, the motion was negatived by 100 votes to 59, and the House went into Committee on the bill, when several amendments were carried; among others, that the lodger qualification should be £15, instead of £10; and the copyhold suffrage should be raised from £5 to £10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced that it was with regret that he found he could not proceed further this Session with the Parliamentary Elections Bill. Subsequently, the order for going into Committee was discharged, and the bill withdrawn.

PROMOTION IN THE ARMY.

Colonel NORTH brought under the notice of the House the cases of Lieutenant Frederick N. Woodall and Lieutenant and Adjutant Henry Currie, of the 74th Highlanders, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Romaine F. Stirke, 69th Regiment, and, after describing their respective services and their claims to promotion, moved that in the opinion of the House no money consideration should delay the promotion of these officers.

The motion was opposed by Sir J. Pakington, and supported by Major S. Knox, Mr. P. Wyndham, and Mr. Monsell. On a division it was negatived by 65 to 54.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed the vote for the British Museum and the vote of £705,865 for education.

THE ROYAL PARKS BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Parks Regulation Bill, Mr. LOCKE submitted a resolution to the effect that the House deemed it inexpedient to proceed further at the present moment with any bill touching the regulation of the parks. The hon. and learned gentleman argued that the bill was unnecessary and mischievous, and that it would only cause heartburning and discontent among the people.

The motion was seconded by Mr. MILL and opposed by Sir C. RUSSELL. Lord AMBERLEY spoke strongly against the bill, and reminded Ministers that had it not been for the meeting in Hyde Park they never could have carried the Reform Bill.

Mr. GLADSTONE was not prepared to refuse to legislate on the subject, seeing that rights of a certain character were vested in the Crown, and that remedies for the violation of those rights were in a defective state. In his opinion, however, the Government would have acted more wisely had they retained the discretionary power contained in the first edition of the bill, and not have introduced an absolute prohibition. Moreover, the present moment was not wisely or judiciously chosen for raising the question or declaring what the law should be.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought the parks ought to be protected from the violence incidental to great political gatherings, and reminded the House that Primrose-hill was quite as convenient as Hyde Park. Referring to the case of Manchester, he also pointed to the circumstance that great political meetings were frequently held in the Free-trade Hall in that city, and that as many as 10,000 persons had assembled within that building.

Mr. BRIGHT deprecated legislating upon an irritating subject at such a moment, and recommended the Government to give up the bill, at all events for the present.

The House then divided, when the amendment of Mr. Locke was negatived by 138 to 88, and the House went into Committee; but immediately afterwards, on the motion of Mr. Ayrton, progress was reported.

TUESDAY, JULY 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The consideration of the Reform Bill in Committee was resumed at clause 7, which abolishes the power of compounding for rates within Parliamentary boroughs. Earl Grey moved to omit the clause; and the proposal was resisted by the Lord Chancellor, on the ground that the effect of its adoption would be to enfranchise the entire class of compound householders, and reduce the bill to confusion. On a division, the amendment was rejected by 148 to 43.

On clause 8 (registration) Lord Halifax proposed to repeal the 24th and 25th of 2nd Wm. IV., c. 45, and in lieu thereof to enact that no person be registered as a county voter in respect of any premises within a borough if they entitle him to vote for such borough. The Duke of Richmond observed that the Government had been strongly urged by their own friends to support the amendment as a most Conservative one; but he doubted if this were the object of the noble Lord in proposing it. The original clause said if "any other person" was entitled to vote for the borough; and the amendment would really tend to swamp the county constituency. Earl Russell threw the weight of his vote into the scale in support of the amendment, which, however, was negatived on a division by 135 to 41.

Lord LYTTELTON moved an amendment disqualifying persons who could not write legibly. This motion was rejected, but without a division. A motion by the Marquis of Clanricarde to disqualify freemen created hereafter from voting at Parliamentary elections met with a similar fate.

Lord CAIRNS then moved that in boroughs and counties returning three members no person should vote for more than two, and in the city of London for more than three, candidates. The motion, which was opposed by the Earl of Malmesbury, gave rise to some discussion, and was carried by 142 to 51 votes. The other clauses were then proceeded with.

The Marquis of BRISTOL moved to omit clause 9, which disqualifies paid canvassers or other hired agents of candidates from voting, but after a short discussion across the table, in which several of their Lordships took part, but scarcely a word of which was audible, the clause was agreed to with some verbal amendments.

On Clause 10, disfranchising Totnes, Lancaster, Reigate, and Great Yarmouth, Lord ROMILLY moved an amendment that they should be disfranchised only till the year 1880, as the punishment of total disfranchisement was too severe and confounded the innocent with the guilty. The LORD CHANCELLOR, however, maintained that the punishment was not more severe than the offence deserved. It was necessary to make an example, and there were ample precedents for what had been done. Besides, the seats which formerly belonged to those boroughs had been disposed of to other towns. The discussion was continued briefly by Lords Stanley of Alderley, Skelemersdale, Kimberley, and Malmesbury; and eventually the amendment was negatived without a division, and the four boroughs remain disfranchised.

Clauses up to 14 were then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POOR KNIGHTS OF WINDSOR.

Mr. G. HARDY, in reply to Mr. EYKYN, said that a Roman Catholic, and, he presumed, a Presbyterian, might be appointed a Knight of Windsor; and, though such persons, by the statute, would be bound to attend the service of the Established Church, the Crown, he believed, could dispense with such attendance on their part.

CONSTITUTION OF THE LAW COURTS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to a question addressed to him by Sir R. Palmer, announced the intention of the Government to issue a commission of inquiry into the operation and effect of the present constitution of the superior courts of law and equity in England—including the Courts of Exchequer Chamber and Appeal in Chancery—and the Courts of Admiralty and of Probate and Divorce; and into the operation and effect of the present separation and division of jurisdiction between these several courts; also into the operation and effect of the present arrangements for holding and transacting the business of the assizes, and of the present division of the year into legal terms.

FACTORY ACTS EXTENSION BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on the Factory Acts Extension Bill, Mr. MOFFATT moved that the House was not prepared, without further evidence, to interfere with the free exercise of labour to so great an extent as was contemplated by the measure. The hon. member urged that the subject was one in which both employers and employed ought to be heard before any legislation was proceeded with.

Mr. WALPOLE was of opinion that ample information was in the possession of the House.

Mr. LIDDELL recommended that the question should be postponed for the consideration of the new reformed Parliament.

Mr. HENLEY thought that so much success had attended this sort of exceptional legislation that the House might advantageously deal with the clauses in Committee.

The bill having been committed, the several clauses were agreed to, with verbal amendments.

Progress was also made with the Hours of Labour Regulation Bill, and the Sewage Bill was passed through Committee.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

AGRICULTURAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. FAWCETT moved the second reading of this bill, and gave his opinion in favour of the half-day or alternate-day system, which, on trial in the factories, had proved eminently successful. According to this plan, the children may either work half a day and devote the other half of the day to the acquisition of learning, or may work one day and learn the next, and so on, devoting alternately a day to labour and a day to learning. He admitted that he could not hope to pass the bill this Session, but wished to have an expression of opinion from the House in favour of its principle.

Mr. A. PREL supported the motion for the second reading.

Mr. BEACH moved that the bill be read the second time that day six months, because the means proposed by it to remedy the present want of education amongst the classes referred to was utterly impracticable. The provisions of the bill could not be carried into effect unless the employers of the children engaged double the number of children actually required.

A discussion followed, the country gentlemen strongly opposing the bill, which was ultimately withdrawn.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Masters and Workmen Bill passed through Committee. The Commons Inclosure Act Amendment Bill was thrown out on the motion for reading it the second time. Mr. J. A. Smith withdrew the Sale of Liquors on Sunday Bill. The Naval Stores Bill was passed through Committee. The Metropolitan Subways Bill was read the third time and passed.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill, on clause 15, Earl GREY moved that in future towns with a less population than 12,000, returning at present two members to Parliament, should only return one. The noble Earl said that while great objection had been taken to the abstract resolution of the noble Viscount (Halifax), nothing whatever had been said against a more extended scheme of redistribution. The only Ministerial objection urged had been that it was inexpedient to disturb the scheme which had been agreed to by the other House. But it was a subject in whose consideration their Lordships had great advantage over the other House. An extensive and complete scheme would have met with great hostility in the House of Commons, as large numbers of members would have opposed it on grounds personal to themselves and their constituencies. This opposition would have been fatal to dealing with the matter in any way whatever. The amendment he was about to propose was one not inconsistent with the principle of the bill, but just the contrary. It was free from all disturbing influence of personal interest. If the scheme, therefore, could be amended, any method of doing so was worthy of serious consideration. Nothing could be more disastrous than intrusting to the new Parliament, at the very outset, the task of revising the present proposed scheme; and there would be no danger in going at least the proposed length in further readjusting the representation of the country.

The Earl of DERBY intimated to their Lordships that, if the amendment just moved were carried, he should feel it his duty to move that the Chairman report progress, and he should consult his colleagues in the Government as to what course should be taken with respect to the whole bill.

After a lengthened discussion their Lordships divided, when Earl Grey's amendment was negatived by a majority of 12 in favour of the Government, the numbers being for the amendment, 86; against it, 98.

The clause was then agreed to, as were also clauses up to 27, when the Chairman reported progress.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LODGER FRANCHISE.

Mr. M. TORRENS gave notice that on an early day he would move "That this House see no reason to alter the resolution at which it has arrived with regard to the £10 lodger franchise."

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Mr. MONSELL asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether her Majesty's Government intend to propose any measure for the consolidation of the Irish railway system. He referred to the large number of railway companies in Ireland, each conducted by a separate board; and remarked that, while the total income of Irish railways was £1,700,000, that of the London and North-Western alone, conducted by a single board, was somewhere about £6,000,000. A number of gentlemen interested in this subject had met and come to the conclusion that the only course that would give satisfaction would be for the Government to purchase the railways. Their market value would be about £19,525,083. That included the existing shares at twenty years' purchase, preference shares at twenty-two years and a half—the stock being calculated at market value, and the debenture loans in the same way. The only sum about which there could be any controversy—because these figures had been submitted to the Board of Trade—was the sum that should be paid for the railways which were not at present paying any dividend; but, taking the total amount at the round sum of 19½ millions at 3½ per cent, the interest would amount to £684,560 a year; whereas the united profits of the Irish railways was at present £900,500. Therefore, there would be a balance of profit, which could be applied to the reduction of fares and the increasing of accommodation to the extent of about £26,000. This was a vital question, which touched every class of the community; and he therefore hoped he should receive a favourable answer to his question.

Lord NAAS perfectly agreed with what had been said as to the great evils which arose in Ireland from the want of consolidation in railways. The total amount of capital he believed was £27,000,000, but in the management of that comparatively small amount there was very little attention paid to the convenience of the public, in consequence of the jealousy existing between different companies. He doubted very much, however, whether, although the Government were to purchase the railways, they would be able to make an immediate reduction of 25 or 30 per cent. Such results could only be reached by gradual steps. He was sure the House would not expect him to follow the right hon. gentleman through the details of his plan; but, with regard to the action of the Government, it would be quite impossible that they could, at this late period of the Session, ask the House to consider this very important subject. But even supposing they had been at the beginning of the Session the Government could not have proceeded without further inquiry. He considered that an extensive and thorough investigation into all classes of railway property in Ireland was absolutely necessary, and certainly this was requisite before any legislation could take place on the subject.

It was accordingly intended that a few competent gentlemen should be appointed to make an exhaustive inquiry, and to-morrow he would ask for leave to bring in a bill giving them all necessary powers, so that by next Session the Government would be able to lay before the House a full and accurate statement on the subject.

THE GREAT TABERNACLE OF THE MORMONS AT SALT LAKE CITY is now finished. It is 250 ft. wide, and furnishes comfortable sitting-room for 10,000 persons.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The Registrar-General, in his usual report states:—In the week that ended on Saturday, July 27, the births registered in London and twelve other large towns of the United Kingdom were 4451; the deaths registered, 2816. The annual rate of mortality was 24 per 1000 persons living. In London the births of 1107 boys and 1056 girls (in all 2163 children) were registered in the week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years (1857-66) the average number, corrected for increase of population, is 2008. The deaths registered in London during the week were 1347. It was the thirtieth week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1453. The deaths in the present return are less by 106 than the estimated number. The deaths in the metropolis from diarrhoea have rapidly increased since the week which ended June 22, when 16 persons died from the disease; in the four following weeks the numbers were 48, 54, 115, 170. Last week 196 deaths from diarrhoea were registered; 39 of these cases occurred in the west, 50 in the north, 22 in the central, 52 in the east, and 33 in the south districts. Twelve children and three adults died from cholera or choleraic diarrhoea. In the corresponding week of last year (1866) the deaths from diarrhoea were 349, and from cholera 904. The annual rate of mortality last week was 23 per 1000 in London, 23 in Edinburgh, and 23 in Dublin; 22 in Bristol, 21 in Birmingham, 27 in Liverpool, 34 in Manchester, 27 in Salford, 21 in Sheffield, 24 in Leeds, 20 in Hull, 26 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and 23 in Glasgow. The rate in Vienna was 23 per 1000 during the week ending the 20th ult., when the mean temperature was 8·6 deg. Fahr. higher than in the same week in London, where the rate was 21.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867.

THE MANSFIELD-JERVIS SCANDAL.

"THAT in the captain's but a choleric word, which in the soldier were flat blasphemy." So must think Captain Jervis and all who read the history of his now famous—or infamous—dispute with Sir William Mansfield, Commander-in-Chief of the troops in India. An outline of the case, with the substance of the Duke of Cambridge's deliverance thereon, we reprint from a contemporary; and it certainly impresses us strongly with the truth of the above aphorism. In the view of the Duke of Cambridge, and we dare say, of all who have studied the case—except, perhaps, Sir William and his friends—the General has been a much more heinous sinner than the Aide-de-Camp; and yet Sir William gets off with a reprimand—severe, certainly, and especially so when addressed to an officer of his standing and services; while Captain Jervis is dismissed from her Majesty's service, with his career and prospects in life utterly blasted. In these circumstances, even allowing that Captain Jervis may have been in some respects to blame, the gratuity of £1800 offered to him seems almost like adding insult to injury.

Let no officer henceforth undertake the duties of domestic aide-de-camp to a Commander-in-Chief in India, particularly if said Commander-in-Chief has a feminine—commander over him, as seems to have been Sir William Mansfield's case. Lady Mansfield does not directly appear in the affair, but her influence asserts itself with tolerable distinctness in the course of events. She has, apparently, rather decided if not peculiar notions of military etiquette and of the duties and positions of "officers and gentlemen" who fill the post of aides-de-camp; and she, or her husband for her, enforces those notions with no gentle hand. Sir William makes his aide-de-camp perform the duties of steward, farm-bailiff, head groom, household purveyor, and chief butler; and to these her Ladyship adds those of gentleman-in-waiting, or genteel flunkey, whose business it is to show visitors in and out of her apartments and to bow and chatter for their amusement. Very dignified occupations these for gentlemen of education and refined feelings, and who, moreover, bear her Majesty's commission! We should have thought better and more suitable work might have been found for the officers of the Army in India than the performance of menial duties in the household of the Commander-in-Chief; and we cannot help thinking that Captain Jervis merits a portion at least of the misfortune that has overtaken him for demeaning himself so far as to undertake such offices. Surely it is not in order that Sir William Mansfield may be saved the expense of keeping a steward, bailiff, groom, and flunkey that the people of India are taxed and the Queen's commission is bestowed!

We know not how long the Mansfield system may have been in vogue in India; but if it is of old standing, it is little wonder that there should be incapacity, superciliousness, and tyranny among the officers, and discontent, insubordination, and mutiny among the men of the Indian army. Officers who play the part of domestic servants, and are even scurvily treated in that capacity, are little likely to be capable of judiciously commanding, much less of securing the obedience and respect of, unpolished yet independent-spirited soldiers. Such an example as that set by Sir William Mansfield in the use made of Captain Jervis and the treatment he accorded to him, cannot fail to have a most pernicious effect on the Indian army, both officers and men; and we hope that reforms will be introduced such as will render the recurrence of similar practices and a like scandal impossible.

LESSONS TAUGHT BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURNS.

THE returns of the Registrar-General for the last quarter of a year are not only very satisfactory, but exceedingly suggestive. The death-rate is considerably lower throughout the whole kingdom, but particularly in the large towns, and the birth-rate is considerably higher, than the average of the same period of the year for the last ten years, allowance being made for increase of population. The first we may attribute to our improved sanitary condition and the measures adopted for promoting cleanliness during the visitation of cholera last year; and the second may be ascribed to the general comfort and prosperity of the community. It is pleasing to be able to draw both these inferences from

the figures supplied in the Registrar's report, because we thus learn that improvements in the conditions under which men exist are the best preservatives of life, and that prosperity is the most effectual stimulant to reproduction. Stagnations in trade immediately make their influence apparent in the marriage, and consequently in the birth, rate; and when both these increase, as they are at present doing, we may be pretty sure that the people, as a whole, are tolerably comfortable. On the other hand, the facts that the death-rate is 2·38 per 1000 of the population below the average of ten corresponding quarters in the towns, where sanitary improvement has been most general, while it has only decreased ·59 per 1000 in the rural districts, in which change has been less marked, encourage us to persevere steadily in extending alterations which are attended with such valuable results. Our large towns, as a rule, are now much better drained, are more thoroughly cleansed, and have a larger and purer supply of water, than they possessed ten years ago; and the results are, improved health and decreased mortality. This, we repeat, is not only very satisfactory, but exceedingly suggestive; for, as there is still plenty of scope for further improvement—as there are yet lots of defects to remedy and nuisances to abolish or abate—we may fairly hope that by renewed and continued effort in that direction we may effect a still greater saving of human life, and, as an incidental but valuable result, add immensely to the social comfort of the population. And this not in towns merely, but in the country districts as well. Cleanliness is once more proved to be next to godliness; and as saving human life and promoting human happiness are about the most godlike actions that it is permitted men to perform, we trust there will be no relaxing of the efforts which experience has shown to be so thoroughly and extensively efficacious to those ends.

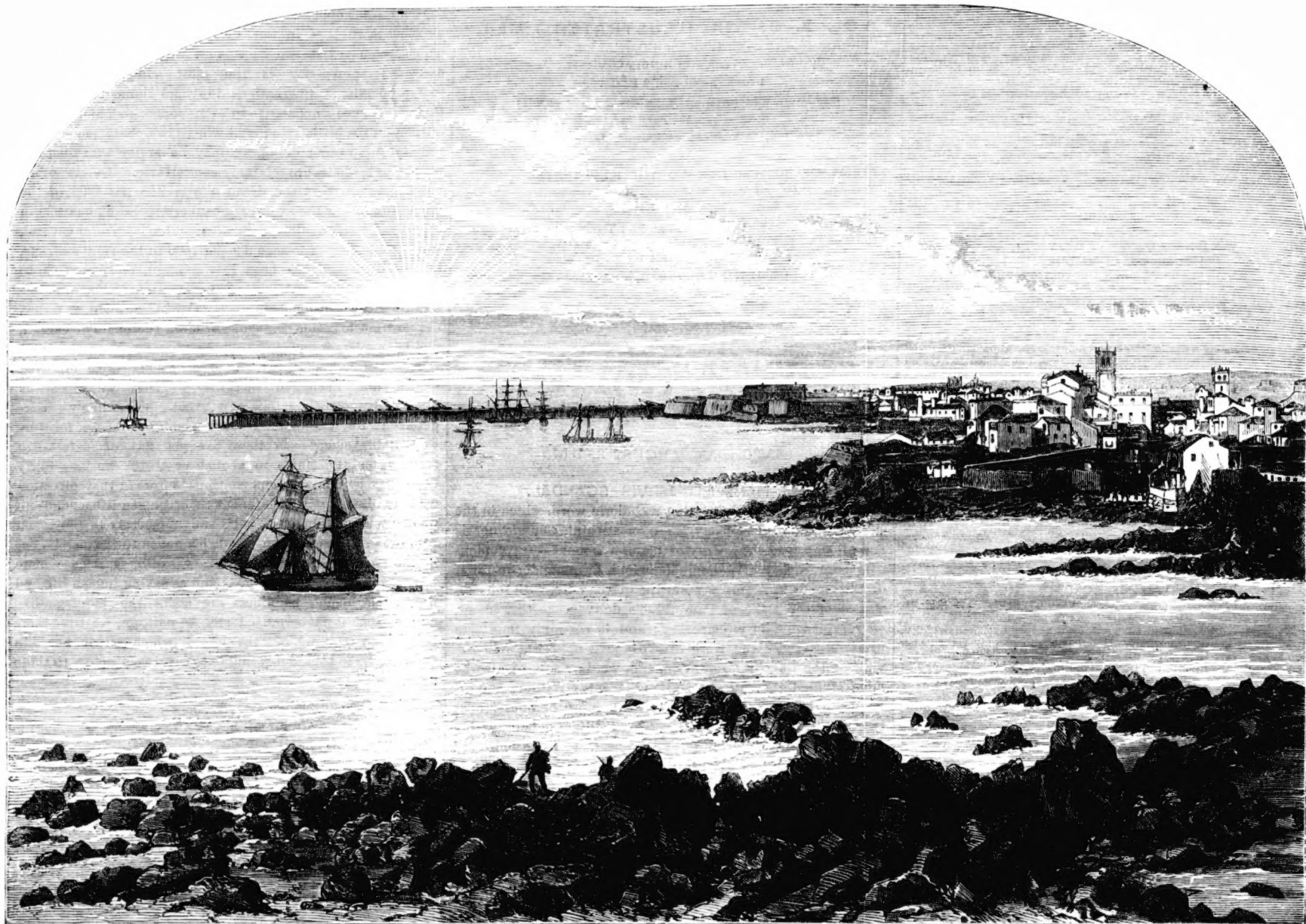
OBITUARY.

OTHO, EX-KING OF GREECE.—Otho, ex-King of Greece, and brother to Maximilian II., King of Bavaria, died at Bamberg, from an attack of measles, on the 26th ult. He was born at Salzburg, on the 1st of June, 1815, and has consequently died in his 53rd year. He was elected to the throne of the newly constituted kingdom of Greece at the age of seventeen, in virtue of the authority given by that nation to France, Great Britain, and Russia. The convention between the three Courts and the King of Bavaria, acting for his son, stipulated that Greece should form an independent State, and that the Powers, by negotiating with the Porte, should fix the limits of the kingdom, then but imperfectly defined; and that the majority of the young King, then a minor, should be fixed at the 1st of June. The Greek National Assembly acknowledged its King, and the young monarch landed in his new dominions, with his German soldiers, on Feb. 6, 1833. Brigandage, taking the form of petty civil war, and the perpetual antagonism of parties, coupled with the King's own incompetency, frequently held in check whatever progress might have been otherwise possible. The history of Greece from that day to 1863 presents us with but little more than a record of the violence of factions and political intrigues. In 1836 Otho contracted a marriage with Princess Mary Frederica Amelia, daughter of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who virtually exercised the regal power, owing to her husband's constitutional indolence. In 1863, however, misgovernment had compelled a revolution. Otho fled; and George of Denmark undertook the government of the kingdom, at the request of those whom he has to govern.

MR. MACAULAY, Q.C., LATE M.P. FOR CAMBRIDGE.—The demise of this gentleman took place at his residence, Shaftesbury-road, Brooklands, Cambridge, about eight o'clock on Monday morning. Mr. Kenneth Macaulay (the deceased) was the youngest son of the Rev. Aulay Macaulay, and first cousin to the late Lord Macaulay. He was born at Rothley, in 1815, and educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A., in 1835. He was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in June, 1839. His upward progress was rapid; he rose to be the leader of the Midland Circuit, which he had chosen; was made a Bencher of his Inn; and in February, 1850, was created a Queen's Counsel by patent. He married, in 1843, Harriet, only daughter of William Woolcombe, Esq., M.D., who survives him, but by whom he leaves no issue. Mr. Macaulay, who was formerly member for the borough of Cambridge, was first a candidate there in July, 1852, in coalition with Mr. Astell, defeating Mr. A. S. Adair (one of the former members) and Mr. Mowatt, Mr. Macaulay heading the poll; but Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Astell were unseated by a resolution of a Committee of the House of Commons, in March, 1853, on the grounds of bribery and corruption, the Committee, however, acquitting them of cognisance. Messrs. Adair and Mowatt were seated, and remained the members until March, 1857, defeating in the interim Viscount Malmesbury, and Mr. Slade, Q.C. In March, 1857, however, Mr. Macaulay again presented himself, this time in coalition with Mr. Andrew Stuart; and they succeeded in defeating Mr. Adair and Mr. Hibbert. In April, 1859, Messrs. Macaulay and Stuart defeated the Hon. Mr. Twissleton and Mr. Mowatt; Mr. Macaulay on both occasions heading the poll. In July, 1863, Mr. Macaulay came forward at a double election, his colleague being the present senior member, Mr. Powell, who had defeated Mr. Fawcett, the present hon. member for Brighton, at a single election, in the interim; and it was while in the heat of the contest for this election that Mr. Macaulay was suddenly stricken down. He was addressing a local meeting of some of his supporters in Barnwell, when, in the middle of his speech, he was suddenly taken in a fit, and had to be removed to his apartments. Medical aid was called, but only to result in showing that the brain had been overtasked. Paralysis of the brain had ensued. From this time Mr. Macaulay was precluded from appearing in his profession or in public life, and finally succumbed to the effects of the attack, as above stated. It was impossible for anyone to have been more esteemed in private life, or in public to have secured more thoroughly the respect of his political opponents.

THE REV. P. MALONE, of Belmullet, has published a letter describing the slip of a large quantity of mountain bog into the Atlantic in that neighbourhood. The mountain was broken up by the accumulated water under the peat, which had been dried by the drought that preceded the recent heavy rain. Forty acres, including ten acres of crops, were destroyed, and the land made valueless for ever. Three or four families have been rendered homeless and destitute by the catastrophe—the avalanche of bog having nearly swept them away in its downward course to the Atlantic.

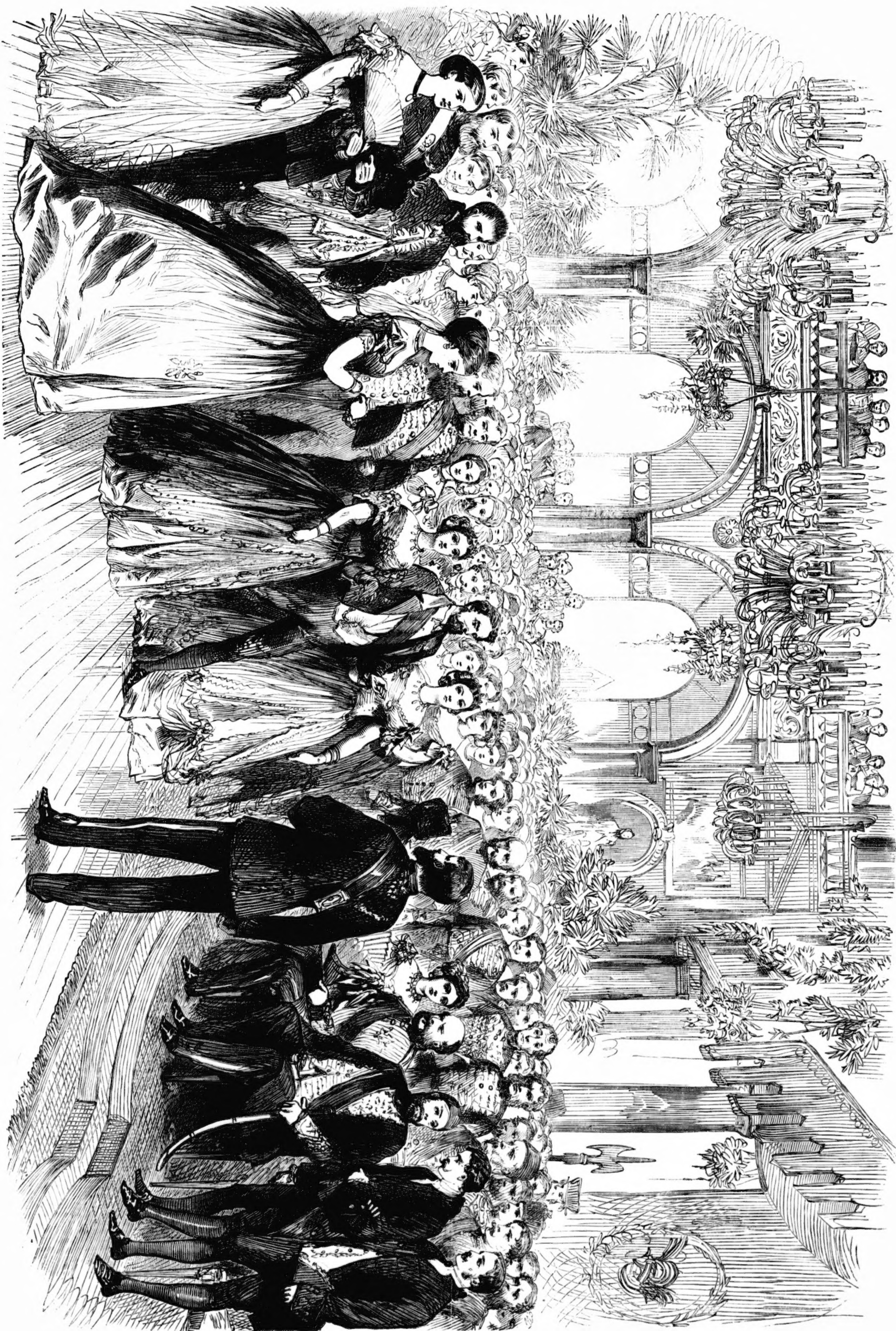
LORD WESTMEATH AND THE ORANGEMEN.—A party of Orangemen and Orangewomen met at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday night, to consider what is to be done with the reporters in the House of Lords, who not only refuse to take down Lord Westmeath's speeches, but are said to have applied epithets to him not altogether Parliamentary. Mr. Harper spoke first, and at some length. The Marquis of Westmeath (said that gentleman) was an old and feeble man, but he desired to make an appeal on behalf of the Protestant faith, and he believed that supernatural strength was given him by God for the purpose. Although he was feeble and weak, and powerless almost as a new-born babe, yet he went to the House of Lords one evening to make an appeal, and he probably made the finest speech of his life. He (Mr. Harper) had heard that speech, and blessed God that he had raised up such an instrument to sound an alarm to the Protestants of this kingdom. He left the House feeling that that protest would live in history, and that his name would be cherished in the heartfelt affections of generations yet unborn. But an infamous press suppressed the arguments of the noble Lord, while they put in the word "laugher," as if it was sneered at. The reporters suppressed certain extracts from documents to which he referred, but which had a most important effect. The reporters ought at least to have given a fair summary of the speech, but they did not. The meeting appeared to be very indignant that the speech of the Marquis was not given as Mr. Harper would have wished, and one gentleman called out that reporters were "blackguards." At a later period of the speech the same gentleman used the word so ill-advisedly that he applied it to the Orangemen themselves, a party of whom thereupon cautioned him. The Grand Master next related the anecdote about his having heard a reporter in the gallery of the Lords term the noble Marquis "an old idiot"—a statement which was received with hearty groans, more particularly by the ladies. "In all probability," said the Grand Master, "the reporter who used this expression was a Jesuit. If he had had the power the reporter would, doubtless, rather have sent the Marquis to the lunatic asylum, to which place he expressed his wish that he might be sent. He thought the language so remarkable that he took it down, in case anything might transpire hereafter. During the evening the meeting sang some 'Protestant melodies.'"



BREAKWATER AT PONTA DELGADA, ST. MICHAEL'S, AZORES ISLANDS, NOW IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.



AN EGYPTIAN TURNER AT WORK IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE '6.



THE GRAND BALL TO THE SULTAN AT THE INDIA OFFICE, WHITEHALL.

BREAKWATER AT PONTA DELGADA, ISLAND OF ST. MICHAEL, AZORES.

THE island of St. Michael, which is the largest and most important of the Azores group, is situated in the Atlantic, in lat. 37 deg. 45 min. N., long. 25 deg. 41 min. W., of Greenwich, and contains a population, according to the last census, of 113,000. The trade and agriculture of the island are in a thriving condition: its exports consisting chiefly of oranges (of which from 200,000 to 240,000 boxes are annually sent to England alone), Indian corn, beans, potatoes, cattle, meat, skins, &c.; while, on the other hand, considerable quantities of manufactured goods, iron, coal, salt, &c., are imported from this country and from Portugal. About 500 vessels, chiefly English and Portuguese, annually visit the island; and during the orange season vessels are constantly leaving for London, Liverpool, Bristol and Hull. Besides these and other means of communication, there is a monthly mail-steamer to and from Lisbon and the chief ports in the Azores. The climate of St. Michael is exceedingly salubrious and genial, the soil fertile and well watered, and the general aspect of the country rich and pleasing in the extreme. The island has, besides, hot and cold springs possessing powerful medicinal properties, well worthy the notice of persons who frequent watering places.

The town of Ponta Delgada, the capital of the island, is well supplied with water, provisions, and coal. Consuls and vice-consuls of all civilised nations are stationed in the town, which may be considered the principal port between the Old and New World. In order to protect vessels touching at St. Michael from the violent S. and S.W. gales which in the winter sometimes visit the island, a breakwater is being constructed at Ponta Delgada by the Portuguese Government, which will, when completed, form a valuable harbour. The work was commenced in January, 1862; and sufficient is already completed to afford a very safe shelter to vessels lying inside, where they can, if desired, load or unload close alongside the shore. The extensive harbour works, and stores, and number of skilled hands necessary for the construction of this great work, offer every facility to vessels requiring repairs at Ponta Delgada. A harbour of refuge of this description, in the middle of the Atlantic, cannot fail to be of immense value and importance.

To any telegraph company proposing to lay down a cable between this country and America by way of the Azores, the island of St. Michael offers advantages which would probably cause it to be selected for the station.

THE INDIA-HOUSE BALL.

WE have already, in our last week's Number, given a full description of the ball at the India Office in honour of the Sultan, of which we now publish an illustrative Engraving. As we before stated, this entertainment was a most magnificent affair, and has, it is said, cost somewhere about £17,000, being £7000 in excess of the original estimate.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MY Lords have, whilst I write, not mangled the Reform Bill much. The raising of the lodger franchise from £10 to £15 is not an amendment which will cause much excitement in the House of Commons. Moreover, if the Lower House should decline to accept it, my Lords will not, it is understood, press it. Another amendment enacts that in three-cornered boroughs and counties—that is, in boroughs and counties returning three members—electors are not to vote for more than two candidates. In the City, which returns four members, electors may vote only for three. This amendment will probably be accepted by the Commons; but if the Lords should carry the amendment allowing voting-papers, that, it is thought, will be sternly resisted by the Commons. The proposition to deprive all boroughs under 12,000 population of one member, provided the distribution of the seats thus gained be reasonably fair, I rather think, if carried, will be accepted cheerfully. It is probable that the bill will be returned to the Commons on Monday or Tuesday. The Commons will probably take two nights to discuss the amendments. If the Commons should disagree to any of the amendments, there will be a conference between the two Houses; and if agreement should be impossible, the bill will drop, or, in other words, be lost. But there is no danger of this occurring; and in all probability the bill will be ready for the Royal assent before the end of next week. In that case, Parliament will be prorogued on the 15th or the 17th.

Mr. John Abel Smith has had to withdraw his Sunday liquor traffic bill, for want of time. But he promised the House, if his life should be spared, that he will bring it in next year. The Sunday trading bill—still upon the paper—will have also to go. These bills are both of the same character. The one would compel publicans to shut up their houses all day on Sundays with the exception of two hours; but in these two hours no liquor was to be drunk on the premises. The other would shut up all shops after nine in the morning, and forbid hawkers of newspapers, fruit, ginger-beer, lollipop, fuzes, &c., to hawk between the hours of ten and one. Of course, if the liquor bill were to be passed, it would be obeyed, as every offending publican would endanger his license by disobedience. But the other bill, if ever it should come to be law, will be disobeyed, especially by our street hawkers. It would need more policemen than Sir Richard Mayne would like to tell off to hunt down such offenders. Besides, how are these itinerant dealers in many parts to know the exact time to cease selling or to commence selling again? The thing is impossible. Either the law will be openly broken, or there will be continual rows in our streets, like those which so frightened Lord Ebury some years ago, that he, to save his windows, rushed down to the House and withdrew his bill. When will these zealous but foolish people learn that, if men will not willingly keep the Sabbath holy, as it is termed, it is quite impossible to make them do it? You cannot drag men into holiness. The liquor bill is simply atrocious. Fancy the thousands and tens of thousands of people who go on Sundays to Hampstead, Kew, Richmond, Greenwich, &c., deprived altogether of the liberty of getting refreshment!

I hear that Mr. Travers Smith, who has for some years been the agent for the Liberal cause, succeeding the famous Mr. Coppock, is about to retire; and it is time, for this gentleman was by no means a success—no match for Mr. Spofforth, the Conservative agent. A Mr. Hoskins is to succeed Mr. Travers Smith, I hear; but who Mr. Hoskins is I know not. Till the other day, I had never heard of the gentleman. Let us hope that he will prove a worthy successor of Mr. Coppock. But that is hardly to be hoped; for nature is not so flush of great men as to afford us two Coppocks in half a century.

Lord Cairns is not now a member of the Government, but he was lately, and he has just received a judgeship and a peerage from the Government; and to outsiders it seems strange that he should oppose the Government and bring in amendments to the Reform Bill, which certainly disturb "the compromise," which Mr. Disraeli talked so much about, and may endanger the measure. I say this looks passing strange to outsiders; but, if we could but lift the curtain, we might find it all explained. Blogg, meeting me the other day, whispered in my ear that it was arranged between Dizzy and Cairns that he was to propose these amendments, which Dizzy thought desirable, but which could not be proposed by the Government; and, after all the strange tricks which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has played, setting up a Cabinet Minister to resist vigorously an amendment, and the next moment surrendering and accepting the amendment, Blogg's information may be true, though very odd. We shall see, when the bill comes back, how Disraeli will treat these amendments.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Several of the magazines are now to hand, but with your leave, Mr. Editor, I will confine myself this week to the two new ones, which are before me. The *Broadway*, as we all know, is not due till the 15th; but here is *Tinsley's Magazine*, for one. The cover is light blue, with a medallion and border of white; the print is nice and

large; the illustrations are Phiz and Mr. Brunton—the latter an artist who possesses the happy gift of being able to draw a lovely woman "out of his own head." Of the general contents I will say, to begin with, that I think they are of such a kind that this new venture has a good chance of succeeding. What is called "the padding" of this first number is mainly pleasant gossip about actors and actresses; about Belgians and balls; about drawing-room topics, and about Mexico. Of the stories, all I can say off-hand is that Dr. Russell's manner is not that of a novelist (and it never will be), but that his tale is interesting; and that Mr. Yates opens vigorously in "The Rock Ahead." The fashion-plates and fashion-writing may offend some people; but they don't offend me. I always read the "fashions" and "cookery," and very nice reading too. The fashion-pictures to *Tinsley's* are charming. A word of high praise is due to the woodcut "The Shortest Way Home;" the verses to it are good; and those of Mr. Shirley Brooks to "The Recluse of the Iron Tower" particularly happy.

Of the *English Magazine* I don't know what to say. "Speak gently to the erring," I observe it is "published for the proprietor," and I wish "the proprietor" joy. There is plenty in the magazine to like; but, as it stands, it is a mere innocent blunder. It contains what I have before spoken of as "ozone;" but is more like a goodish amateur magazine than anything else. It is a great pity that people will go into costly literary ventures without knowledge and experience such as only years of practice and observation can give them. The name of the *English Magazine* may survive, but, with its present characteristics, the periodical cannot live, and the good word of the ten thousand reviewers (if there are as many in the kingdom, and I hope not) could not make it do so.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

This is pre-eminently the season of theatrical and operatic benefits, and bills which have preserved the same old face for weeks past become jerkily variable in their contents. Mr. and Mrs. Billington have had a bumper at the Adelphi, and they were assisted by Mr. Toole (who is seldom to be seen at the Adelphi now), and Mrs. Mellon, who, alas! is never to be seen there again. That is, at least, her announced determination. I most sincerely hope she may be induced to reconsider it. Miss Terry's benefit was, of course, a tremendous success. This excellent actress has been so bespattered with idiotic, unreasoning, indiscriminate adulation, that it is absolutely wonderful that she has not become unbearably presumptuous in her stage deportment. How in the world her young head contrives to stand it, I don't know. I suppose she is sensible enough to know that she has her faults, and I hope she is sensible enough to feel contempt for the preposterous praise that has been heaped upon her by well-meaning but highly injudicious friends. She stands at the head of her own line of business, and she fills the duties of her responsible post with the utmost credit to herself and profit to her employers. But she is not an astounding and utterly overwhelming genius; and, when she leaves us, somebody will be found to take her place. Opportunity is all that several of our younger actresses want in order to distinguish themselves; and I think I can point to one or two comparatively unknown ladies who would dazzle an Adelphi audience if they only had the chance of doing so. But I say no more. Miss Terry's retirement will prove whether I am a good or a bad prophet.

Mr. Clayton's benefit at the OLYMPIC was signalled by the production of a neat little comedietta, adapted from the French by a gentleman who prefers to keep his incognito. This gentleman is known in literary circles as the author of some remarkably clever social articles which have appeared from time to time in the *Poll Mall Gazette* and other journals, and the success of his first stage venture justifies him in venturing upon a more important production. "Six Months Ago" (the title of the piece) has very little plot indeed, and what little there is has no moral whatever, except that when you are in a fix a good lie will generally help you out of it; but, as the author has manfully acknowledged his obligations to a French source, it is the author of the French version who must be held chiefly liable for defects of story as well as of morality, I suppose. It is very smartly translated, and was very well played by Mr. Clayton, Mr. Montague, and Miss Milly Palmer. It was abominably placed upon the stage, as nearly all the Olympic pieces are, now that the theatre is under Adelphi auspices.

The "distinguished amateurs" at the HOLBORN are as utterly incapable a set of actors as ever trod a stage. They have covered themselves with ridicule, and I hope that the failure of these performances will prevent a repetition of so humiliating an absurdity. If noble Lords wish to benefit charities let them write cheques for large amounts; if they simply wish to display themselves in stage parts, let them do so without veiling their absurd vanity under the thin cloak of charity. It is one thing for a set of literary men to club among themselves to give an amateur performance, appealing only to a special audience of intimate friends, in aid of the family of a dead brother—and another for a set of crack-brained aristocrats to advertise themselves to appear as a public theatrical company for a week at a time, depending for attraction simply upon the number of titles they can muster in their bills, and appealing, by this means, to the most snobbish feelings of the most snobbish class in England. The "aristocrats" at the Holborn have disgraced their order.

PARIS GOSSIP.

I THINK I saw in one of your comic publications, a week or two since, a sketch representing some Belgian volunteers stopping with longing looks before an ale and sandwich shop somewhere in the Strand: they had just left the Guildhall banquet. Is it possible that there were not several tons weight of beef, mutton, fowl, ham, and plum-pudding at that friendly *pique-nique*, as we are here assured there were? And that 8000 bottles of rîde champagne—a new growth—20,000 of sherry, 40,000 of claret, and 100,000 pots of beer, black and yellow, were consumed, not reckoning the gin and the schnick? Or are the Parisians slyly ironical at the expense of the aldermen and other City big-wigs? I suspect it must be so, because I find the wonder generally expressed that not a single man of the Belgian convives was afflicted with the shadow of an indigestion the following day.

The death of M. de Ponsard, a favourite dramatic writer, has again left vacant one of the arm-chairs of the Forty. One would be puzzled to tell what the functions or utility are, nowadays, of the French Academy, unless, indeed, it may be considered an embodiment, in a way, of the passive protest of French literature against the Imperial régime. By-the-by, it has been recently remarked as a significant sign of how the most slavish supporters of the Empire regard its prospects of permanency, that when the senators broke up the other day, at the close of the Session, there were as many shouts of "Vive l'Empire!" as of "Vive l'Empereur!" People may cry in England "Long live the Queen!" but nobody would think of vociferating, "Long live the kingdom!" The reason is that men must die; but dynasties are not usually considered to be so mortal. Here, however, we detect the unconscious conviction in the minds of its devoted friends, that the French Empire is a not improbable exception.

But I forget my story about the Academy, and the men who are ambitious of being members of it. There are three candidates—M. Henri Martin, who has compiled some histories and other big books; M. Théophile Gautier, a voluminous and veteran *littérateur*; and M. Champagny, who, in spite of his name, is neither brisk nor sparkling. The latter gentleman is patronised by the Duchess of Istria, of whose salon he is chief of the stock company, and whose name is but slight recommendation. The other day he presented himself to M. de Sainte Beuve, on his canvass—for a canvass appears to be *de rigueur*, although why I cannot say, for what befel Paul Louis Courier, when he sought this honour, is by no means a singular occurrence. "Every man of the Forty," he said, "assured me privately of his support, affirming that no one had claims so strong as mine. On the day of the election there was not a single card with my name on it in the urn!" But to return. "What are your claims?" asked de Sainte Beuve of Champagny. "I am a historian." "Are you sure you are not merely an Istrian?" The pun you may

treat with what contempt you please, but the *malice* of the thing is keen.

Great preparations are in progress for the rejoicings and displays of the 15th—the Saint Napoleon. The last of the fifty-nine Imperial and Royal Princes who have visited Paris is still lingering here; but the heavy hand of the dead season is upon us.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has announced her intention of conferring a baronetcy on the Lord Mayor, and knighthood on each of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex. Mr. Alderman Rose is also to be knighted, in consideration of the services rendered by him as Lord Mayor at the time of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has been invested with the Order of the Garter. In his reply to Lord Bath's address, he expressed the strong desire he felt to draw closer the relations which connected him with England.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Lady Georgiana Adelaide Russell, eldest daughter of Earl Russell, and Mr. Archibald Peel, son of General Peel, M.P., and Lady Alice Peel.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to permit his name to be added to that of her Majesty the Queen as patron of the National Exhibition of Works of Art to be held at Leeds in 1868.

THE BAPTISM OF THE INFANT DAUGHTER of her Royal Highness Princess Mary Adelaide and his Serene Highness Prince Teck was performed in the Chapel Royal of Kensington Palace last Saturday afternoon.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE is spoken of as an independent candidate for one of the seats to be given to Chelsea under the new Reform Bill.

MR. RALPH AUGUSTUS BENSON, of the Oxford Circuit, will be the successor of the Hon. G. C. Norton, as magistrate of the Lambeth Police Court.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON is appointed Under-Secretary at the Home Office, and he will be succeeded, in all probability, by Lord Clinton at the India Board.

MR. E. W. WATKIN, M.P., is to receive the honour of knighthood, as an acknowledgment of his services in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. A similar honour is to be conferred on Mr. W. H. Bodkin, Assistant Judge of the Middlesex Sessions.

MR. CHARLES KEAN, we are sorry to say, still continues in precarious health.

MARIE RUSSLER, a French Canadian woman, died at Brompton, the other week, at the age of 114, having been born while Canada was still a French colony.

CAPTAIN COUNT GLEICHEN, R.N., has been appointed to the office of Governor and Constable of Her Majesty's Castle of Windsor.

GENERAL GARIBALDI has been staying for some days at Vinai, near Empoli, on the Arno, eighteen miles from Florence.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT has been made to dislodge Table Rock, Niagara, by blasting.

MR. GEORGE DAWSON, M.A., well known as a lecturer, is mentioned as the Liberal candidate for the third seat granted to Birmingham under the new Reform Bill.

MILLE TIETJENS is said to have accepted a brilliant engagement at St. Petersburg for the coming winter season. Milde Lucca is engaged there also for sixteen performances.

JUAREZ has consented to deliver up the body of the Emperor Maximilian, which has been embalmed and taken to Vera Cruz, where it awaits the arrival of the Austrian squadron to convey it to Europe.

WHEN LORD LYTTLETON handed in his amendment disfranchising all who cannot write a legible hand, the clerk was obliged to beg the favour of his Lordship's assistance in deciphering the specimen of caligraphy laid before him.

THE GOVERNMENT, "it is generally believed in the lobbies of the House of Commons, content with the two majorities they have obtained on the question, and in deference to the wishes of many of their supporters, will remain satisfied, for this Session, with the progress they have made with the Public Parks Bill." So says the *Owl*.

MESSRS. VIRTUE AND CO. purpose commencing, in October, the publication of a new monthly magazine, under the editorship of Anthony Trollope. It will be called the *New Metropolitan Magazine*.

THE WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE ELECTION has terminated in the return of the Conservative candidate, the numbers at the close of the poll being Colonel Somerset (C.), 3649; for the Hon. C. P. F. Berkeley (L.), 3553; majority for Somerset, 96.

A SERVANT GIRL, living in a family near Liverpool, has unexpectedly come into a fortune of £200,000 by the death of a relative in one of our colonies.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE arrived at a Royal residence near Brussels on Wednesday, and will there take up her abode for a time.

MR. GYE, the manager of the Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden, has received from the Sultan a diamond snuffbox worth 1000 guineas, as a mark of his Majesty's satisfaction with the State performance on the 15th inst.

RALPH WALDO-EMERSON has been nominated in the Massachusetts Legislature as one of the overseers of Harvard University.

MR. EDWARD DOWDEN, B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, a distinguished scholar of the college and late one of the sub-editors of the Philological Society's English Dictionary, has been elected Professor of English Language and Literature at his college.

JASPER is now procured, to almost any required extent, at St. Gervais, in Savoy, where the quarry has a surface of at least 24,000 square yards and a depth of about 22 yards.

IN YOKOHAMA almost every nation under heaven is represented. The foreigners living there number about 800. The inhabitants have not fully recovered from the effects of the great fire in November last, but they are rapidly rebuilding.

A GENTLEMAN residing in New York recently celebrated his "golden wedding," his eldest daughter's "silver wedding," and, at the same time, the wedding of his youngest daughter. Such a triple celebration is remarkable.

A GENTLEMAN, whose name has not been made known even to the authorities, has contributed £5000 to the Bishop of London's fund for the purpose of promoting the erection of a new church at Kensal-green, the district around which is rapidly increasing in population.

AT A RECENT BAZAAR in Stockport a magistrate agreed to give £3 for a wheelbarrow, on condition that a certain gallant volunteer officer wheeled home a certain corpulent town councillor in it. The offer was accepted and the feat performed, the parties being, of course, in disguise.

DR. HAMPDEN, Bishop of Hereford, who has been so ill as to cause the greatest apprehension amongst his friends, is slowly recovering. He has considerable physical strength, but his mind seems to have been affected by the hard work of many years. Dr. Hampden has been a great contributor to theological literature, in addition to his discharge of the episcopal duties of the diocese of Hereford during a period of nearly twenty years.

A REMARKABLE INSTANCE of the well-known vitality of seeds may now be seen at the Paris Exhibition—a great variety of plants foreign to France having sprung up under the walls and around the buildings in the park, the seeds of which have been conveyed to Paris in packages from various countries. Especially around the house of "Gustavus Vasa" several plants may be seen which are peculiar to the country of that Monarch.

THE PONTIFICAL GOVERNMENT, at the news of the understanding come to between the two fractions of the revolutionary party, has forbidden all entrance to the Castle of St. Angelo to civilians as well as such military as do not form part of the garrison. A battalion of Zouaves has been sent to the frontier, on the Montebello side, to search for a troop of Garibaldians, whose appearance has been reported in that locality.

THE extent of land under potato cultivation in France is 2,040,364 acres; in Austria it is 1,308,148 acres; in Ireland, 1,050,419 acres; in Bavaria, 649,735 acres; in Great Britain, 498,843 acres; in Belgium, 369,850 acres; in Sweden, 334,000 acres; in Holland, 265,987 acres; in Württemberg, 167,948 acres; and in Denmark proper, 69,176 acres.

M. ANTOINE UDAETE, formerly agent de change on the Boisa de Madrid, and one of the richest capitalists of Spain, lately went to Rome. A week after his arrival he died suddenly. When his will was opened, on the day of the funeral, he was found to have named Pius IX. as his heir. A communication from Madrid states that the fortune of the deceased amounts to 6,000,000*l.*, and that his relatives intend to oppose the will as a forgery.

MECHANICAL SCIENCE.—Mr. Whitworth has addressed to the Science and Art Department the following letter, which was laid before the select committee on Paris purchases:—"Feeling the national importance of maintaining the position which England has reached in the manufacture of machinery in general, I desire to do as much as may be in my power towards effecting this object. I should therefore feel obliged if you would inform the Lord President of the Council that I am willing to deposit in the South Kensington Museum, to be there perpetually preserved, three original true planes and a measuring machine, or instrument, demonstrating the millionth part of an inch; and I propose, subject to some conditions, to make a sufficient endowment to provide for the delivery of lectures to explain such instruments. Their importance will be manifest when it is considered that the value of every machine, when made of the best materials, depends on the truth of its surfaces and the accurate measurement of its parts."

WATER SUPPLY OF LONDON.

Forty years ago an alarm arose that the water then drawn from the tidal district of the Thames was unwholesome and dangerous to health. A Royal Commission which was then appointed to determine its quality reported that the water of the Thames, when free from extraneous substances, was not unfit for domestic use, but that as it approached the metropolis it became loaded with a quantity of filth which rendered it improper to be employed in the preparation of food. This report was referred to a Committee of the House of Commons, which in July, 1828, made a report recommending that Mr. Telford be instructed to make the surveys necessary to enable him to recommend a practicable and efficacious plan of supplying the whole of the metropolis with pure and wholesome water. In 1831 Mr. Telford made his report, advising that the northern part of the metropolis then supplied from the Thames should be supplied from the River Verulam, and the southern part from the Wandle. In the same year this report was referred to a Select Committee, which carried on a long investigation; but, owing to its being late in the Session, merely reported the evidence to the House. In 1840 the House of Lords appointed a Committee upon the subject; but this also, after examining many witnesses, only concluded with reporting the evidence to the House. The outbreak of cholera in 1849 again drew attention to the quality of the water supply. The Board of Health undertook to investigate the subject, and in the following year proposed a plan for drawing a better supply from gathering grounds in the Bagshot sands and in the district known as the Hind head, to the south of Guildford. In the same year, in a Parliamentary Committee in a bill relating to the supply of water from the river Lea, the report of the board underwent a severe scrutiny, and its conclusions were somewhat discredited. In consequence of this the Government appointed a scientific Commission on the chemical quality of the water supplied by the several companies; and the Committee in 1850 came to the conclusion that it exhibited no unwholesome qualities, but they recommended that it should be protected from town sewage and be filtered. In 1851 the Government proposed a bill to amalgamate all the metropolitan water companies, and compel the new company to obtain water from such sources as the Secretary of State might direct. This bill was referred to a Committee, which ascertained that a sufficient supply of water of good quality might be obtained from the valley of the Thames and the other sources upon which the companies drew. While these discussions were going on the tidal waters of the Thames were being gradually affected by modifications in the drainage of London. It had long been penal to allow any solid matter to pass into the drains; but with a better supply of water to wash it away it was made compulsory to pass it there, and at the same time with the extension of the population the quantity of house drainage was largely increased. It was in these circumstances that the Act of 1852 was passed, prohibiting the companies from taking water from the Thames below Teddington Lock, or from any tributary stream below the tidal point. In 1856, the first year after that Act came into full operation, the five companies obtaining their supply from the Thames obtained an average of nearly 33,000,000 gals. a day; in 1866 they drew nearly 47,000,000 gals. daily. The estimated number of persons now supplied by these companies is 1,369,090. Supposing the population should double itself within the next sixty years the supply required would not exceed 100,000,000 gals. a day. But the smallest quantity of water known to flow down the Thames at the source of supply, in the driest time on record, exceeds 350,000,000 gals. a day, and in time of flood more than 25,000,000,000 gals. have flowed down, so that if it were thought necessary to provide a store in reservoirs the Thames will sometimes yield in a day a sufficient supply for a whole year. The quality of the water supplied to London has very greatly improved since the passing of the Act of 1852, and may be advantageously compared with the water generally supplied to towns in England. Still, the only mode of securing water against possible causes of danger is by preventing its being mixed with sewage or other known sources of contamination. The Act of last Session relating to the Thames provides for this as far as at present deemed practicable; and the Committee from whose report these statements are taken—the Commons' Committee on the East London Water Bills—are convinced that the quantity and quality of the water supply from the Thames are so far satisfactory that there is no ground for disturbing the arrangements made under the Act of 1852. The New River Company and the East London Company, drawing their supplies from the River Lea (the former having also the springs at Amwell, affording about 4,000,000 gals. daily), supplied nearly 38,000,000 gals. a day in 1856, and 41,670,000 gals. in 1866. The population supplied by them is now estimated at 1,458,570. The average daily flow in the Lea is about 90,000,000 gals.; in extremely dry weather nearly 60,000,000 gals. The companies are bound to leave sufficient water for the purposes of navigation. Any great addition to the present supply would make reservoirs for storing water requisite, but there does not seem to be any difficulty in constructing such works. A bill passing through Parliament enables the East London Company to increase their Tottenham reservoir, so as to store 500,000,000 gals. of water; and, as the water at their intake is liable at certain times to become so much contaminated as to be unfit for storing, the Committee on the bill introduced a clause in the bill requiring them to make such channels of communication between the river and the reservoir as will allow the flow of water to be regulated or cut off. Another bill gives this company power to obtain a supply of 10,000,000 gals. a day from the Thames; and the Committee are satisfied that there will thus be an abundant provision of water for the eastern part of London for many years to come. The Committee are also satisfied that, as far as science affords the means of judging, the water supplied by the New River and East London companies is not only wholesome, but compares favourably with that supplied to other places. But they concur in the recommendation made by the Rivers Pollution Committee that after the lapse of a certain period no sewage (unless passed over land so as to become purified) and no injurious refuse should be allowed to be cast into the Lea or its tributaries. The works at Old Ford are also, under these bills, to be improved. The Committee state that with these remedial measures carried into effect, the Lea will be as free from risk of contamination as the Thames, and will afford a supply of wholesome water of unquestionable character to the East London Company at the lower source of supply, as it now does to the New River Company from its intake near Hertford. The other company, the North Kent, draws its water from deep wells, and no question has ever arisen as to the quality of the supply. The quantity, averaging 2,310,000 gals. a day in 1856, is now more than 6,000,000 gallons. The population supplied numbers 237,068. The quantity might easily be doubled. The result of the inquiry is, in the opinion of the Committee, that London is found to have an ample supply of good water at its doors, and all that is needed is to stop the systematic contamination of it, and to pass a constant supply into every house, both which objects are attainable and ought now to be attained.

MR. KARS LAKE AND THE "PERSONS."—Mr. Karslake, M.P. for Colchester, will no longer be able to repeat the boast which he made when opposing Mr. Mill's motion for the enfranchisement of women. He then said, "During the three months he had had the honour to have a seat in that House, although he had received day by day petitions and applications of various kinds upon subjects which he regarded as of a most trivial character, he had not received one single application, one single notification, verbal or written, in favour of the proposition of the hon. member." On Thursday night week he presented a petition, signed by 129 ladies and some of his constituents at Colchester, in favour of female enfranchisement.

BROADHEAD'S APPEAL.—A meeting of the sawgrinders' trade was held last week, at which Broadhead was present, and spoke for nearly an hour. The burden of his speech was that he had sacrificed himself to the trade. He said that he had injured his character and his prospects for the good of the trade; and he frequently made pathetic ejaculations, intended to work upon the sympathies of his hearers, in which, as we are informed, he got to a very large extent succeeded. He terminated his speech by an appeal to his hearers that they should either keep him or allow him to re-enter the trade. We believe that the latter part of his request was acceded to. Some of the persons present expressed their opinion that he was the best man in the trade. —*Sheffield Telegraph.*

Literature.

The Early Years of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. Compiled, under the direction of her Majesty the Queen, by Lieut.-General the Hon. C. GREY. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This work will be read with much interest by all classes of her Majesty's subjects. A finer picture of pure, virtuous, domestic life in high places was never painted than is disclosed in the letters, journals, &c., of which the book is mainly composed. The present is only the first volume of a series; but the series, when completed, will undoubtedly constitute the best monument to the memory of "Albert the Good" that could possibly be erected; and, though unconsciously, the Queen will have also, by its publication, raised a memorial to her own admirable character that will tend to intensify, if that be possible, the respect and reverence in which she is held by her subjects. As the publication of such a book as this is a somewhat unusual proceeding, it may be well to explain the circumstances under which it has been given to the public.

The work, then, as we are told in the preface, was originally compiled by General Grey, under her Majesty's direction, "solely for private circulation among the members of her own family, or such other persons as, from the relation in which they had stood to her Majesty or the Prince Consort himself, would naturally be interested in the story of his early days." Notwithstanding this privacy, however, some fear was entertained lest a copy of the volume might be surreptitiously obtained and published in a garbled form, and it was thought that it might be prudent to avert this danger. But another motive prompted the publication of the volume, which will be best described in the words of the preface itself:—

Acting upon the opinion of several persons in whose judgment she had the greatest confidence; believing also that the free and unreserved expression which the volume contains of her own feelings, as well as of those of the Prince, is such as, if made public (however unusual such publicity may be), will command the entire sympathy of everyone whose sympathy or good opinion is to be desired; and, above all, feeling that there is not one word, coming from the Prince himself, which will not tend to a better and higher appreciation of his great character, the Queen has not hesitated to give her consent to the present publication.

Such being the origin of the work, and such the motives that have prompted its publication, it is only necessary to add that the execution reflects credit upon all concerned. Some parts are evidently directly inspired by the Queen herself; here and there are notes from her Majesty's own hand; and most of the Prince's letters, originally written in German, have been translated by Princess Helena. Peculiar interest, therefore, attaches to the whole work, which has manifestly, and in all parts, been pre-eminently a labour of love. The first part of the volume is of course occupied with the ancestry, parentage, and boyhood of the Prince; and that portion we may pass over with the remark that it indicates that the "child was father to the man." From his earliest years, Prince Albert seems to have been a thoroughly "good boy"—and a "very noble youth"—kind-hearted, amiable, affectionate, honourable, and diligent and studious. We suppose we shall, by-and-by, be favoured with the fruits of his studies; for, besides writing essays and other compositions, we find he was engaged upon a work on German literature so early as his seventeenth year. It is, however, when his name came to be associated with that of her Majesty that the deepest interest arises. The history of the Royal loves is told in simple and unaffected language, and, to our mind, little honourable to both, redounds most to the credit of her Majesty. She, like a true, genuine-hearted woman, is full of love, admiration, and thoughts of her own unworthiness. She thinks he makes a sacrifice in accepting her hand, and is anxious to do everything in her power to make him happy. The Prince, on the other hand, accepts his high destiny with a feeling of calm—almost cool—pleasure, not unmixed with anxious misgivings as to the difficulties which might attend his future career—misgivings that were subsequently to a small degree justified, but which were finally erased by the hearty, sincere, and universal respect which he won from all.

Difficulties in the way of their union had been raised, even after such an event had been mentioned as probable; but these were all removed during a visit paid by the Prince and his brother to England, in 1839. The way of life at Windsor during the stay of the Princes and the manner in which the final engagement was brought about are thus described:—

The Queen breakfasting at the time in her own room, they afterwards paid her a visit there, and at two o'clock had luncheon with her and the Duchess of Kent. In the afternoon they all rode—the Queen and Duchess and the two Princes—with Lord Melbourne and most of the ladies and gentlemen in attendance, forming a large cavalcade. There was a great dinner every evening, with a dance after it three times a week.

On the 15th of October there was an important interruption to the ordinary routine of the day. The Queen had told Lord Melbourne the day before that she had made up her mind to the marriage, at which he expressed great satisfaction; and he said to her, as her Majesty states in her journal, "I think it will be very well received; for I hear that there is an anxiety now that it should be, and I am very glad of it;" adding, in quite a paternal tone, "You will be much more comfortable; for a woman cannot stand alone for any time, in whatever position she may be." (Can we wonder that the Queen, recalling these circumstances, should exclaim (in her journal), "Alas! alas! the poor Queen now stands in that painful position!")

An intimation was accordingly given to the Prince, through Baron Alvensleben, Master of the Horse to the Duke of Coburg, and long attached to his family, who had accompanied the Prince to England, that the Queen wished to speak to him.

On that day, the 15th, the Prince had been out hunting early with his brother, but returned at twelve, and half an hour afterwards obeyed the Queen's summons to her room, where he found her alone. After a few minutes' conversation on other subjects, the Queen told him why she had sent for him; and we can well understand any little hesitation and delicacy she may have felt in doing so; for the Queen's position, making it imperative that any proposal of marriage should come first from her, must necessarily appear a painful one to those who, deriving their ideas on this subject from the practice of private life, are wont to look upon it as the privilege and happiness of a woman to have her hand sought in marriage, instead of having to offer it herself.

That same day the Queen thus wrote to the King of the Belgians:—

Windsor Castle, Oct. 15, 1839.

My dearest Uncle,—This letter will, I am sure, give you pleasure, for you have always shown and taken so warm an interest in all that concerns me. My mind is quite made up, and I told Albert this morning of it. The warm affection he showed me, on learning this, gave me great pleasure. He seems perfect, and I think that I have the prospect of very great happiness before me. I love him more than I can say, and shall do everything in my power to render this sacrifice (for such, in my opinion, it is) as small as I can. He seems to have great tact—a very necessary thing in his position. These last few days have passed like a dream to me, and I am so much bewildered by it all that I know hardly how to write; but I do feel very happy. It is absolutely necessary that this determination of mine should be known to no one but yourself and to Uncle Ernest until after the meeting of Parliament, as it would be considered, otherwise, neglectful on my part not to have assembled Parliament at once to inform them of it.

Lord Melbourne, whom I have, of course, consulted about the whole affair, quite approves my choice, and expresses great satisfaction at this event, which he thinks in every way highly desirable.

Lord Melbourne has acted in this business, as he has always done towards me, with the greatest kindness and affection. We also think it better, and Albert quite approves of it, that we should be married very soon after Parliament meets—about the beginning of February.

Pray, dearest uncle, forward these two letters to Uncle Ernest, to whom I beg you will enjoin strict secrecy, and explain these details, which I have not time to do, and to faithful Stockmar. I think you might tell Louise of it, but none of her family.

I wish to keep the dear young gentleman here till the end of the month. Ernest's sincere pleasure gives me great delight. He does so adore dearest Albert.—Ever, dearest uncle, your devoted niece, V. R.

The event, on the other hand, is notified by the Prince to Baron Stockmar, one of his most trusted friends, in the following letter, which well describes his more serious reflections on his new position:—

Dear Baron Stockmar,—A thousand thanks for your dear, kind letter. I thought you would surely take much interest in an event which is so important for me and which you yourself prepared.

Your prophecy is fulfilled. The event has come upon us by surprise, sooner than we could have expected; and I now doubly regret that I have lost the last summer, which I might have employed in many useful preparations, in deference to the wishes of relations and to the opposition of those who influenced the disposal of my life.

I have laid to heart your friendly and kind-hearted advice as to the true foundation on which my future happiness must rest, and it agrees entirely with the principles of action which I had already privately framed for myself. An individuality, a character, which shall win the respect, the love, and the confidence of the Queen and of the nation must be the groundwork of my position. This individuality gives security for the disposition which prompts the actions; and, even should mistakes occur, they will be more easily pardoned on account of that personal character; while even the most noble and beautiful undertakings fail in procuring support to a man who is not capable of inspiring that confidence.

If, therefore, I prove a "noble" Prince in the true sense of the word, as you call upon me to be, wise and prudent conduct will become easier to me, and its results more rich in blessings.

I will not let my courage fail. With firm resolution and true zeal on my part, I cannot fail to continue "noble, manly, and princely" in all things. In what I may do good advice is the first thing necessary; and that you can give better than anyone, if you can only make up your mind to sacrifice your time to me for the first year of my existence here.

I have still much to say to you, but must conclude, as the courier cannot wait longer. I hope, however, to discuss the subject more fully with you by word of mouth at Wiesbaden. Hoping that I shall then find you well and hearty, I remain yours truly, ALBERT.

The projected union was notified to Parliament at its meeting in the following February, and on the 10th of that month (that is, February, 1840) the marriage took place. The remainder of the volume is occupied with the life of the Royal couple till the birth of the Princess Royal, with which event it closes. Some space, however, is devoted to the discussions in Parliament as to the titles, precedence, and allowance to be conferred on the Prince; and it is curious to note the difference of feeling that obtained then and at the time of the marriage of the Prince of Wales. There was considerable demur to granting Prince Albert even £30,000 a year, while £50,000 was voted to his son with the utmost readiness. One cannot help feeling that this great advance in public and Parliamentary liberality was mainly due to the admirable conduct of her Majesty and her lamented Consort. Another reflection suggested by a perusal of this volume is, that, inasmuch as her Majesty has given a large measure of her time and attention during her partial seclusion from public affairs to superintending the compilation of the work, she has been well employed. West-End snobs, who grumble at the Queen's retirement, should bear this in mind, and leave the Royal widow in quietude, particularly as her place is well supplied by her sons and daughters.

We ought to mention that the volume contains two portraits of the Prince, one when he was four years of age and the other when he was twenty. The first seems to us somewhat spiritualised, the face having a sort of angelic expression about it; but the second is the very embodiment of handsome, budding manhood.

The Resurrection and the Sabbath; or, the Rest of the Seventh Day. London: Charles Westerton.

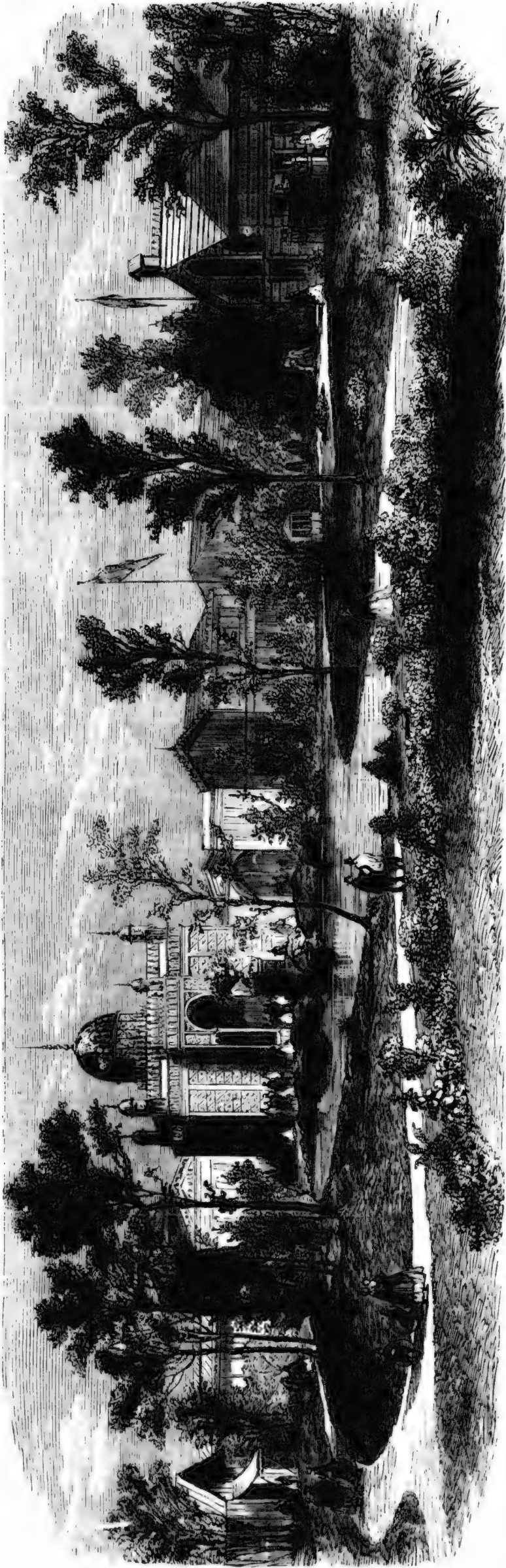
This work has been in manuscript twelve years, and the author at last resolves to publish it, in the belief that the interest in the Sabbath is as great now as it was then. He is quite right, and if people really want any reasons why they should enjoy one day's rest in the week, they should certainly study these pages. But, perhaps, the opinion of almost all will be that, so long as the holiday be had, the reasons people may keep to themselves; but still such persons will be glad to hear that the writer is very broad, humanitarian, latitudinarian, even secular, in his ideas on the Sabbath; and, although it is difficult to say exactly how far he would go, it is evident that, if he must err, he would wish to err on what the Bishop of Salisbury would assuredly call the wrong side. An analysis of this book would be worthless—perhaps impossible; but it will attract the attention of a few readers.

A Handbook to the Charities of London. BY SAMUEL LOW, jun. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

All persons interested in the London charities must be acquainted with Mr. S. Low's "Charities of London in 1861," to which the present work is a sort of supplement. The various societies for the relief of distress of all kinds which exist in the British metropolis (above eight hundred in number) are arranged alphabetically, with brief particulars of their respective purposes, extent of funds, rules, situations, officers, &c. Apart from its use as a guide to persons wishing to obtain the benefit of the institutions named, this little book, even on a cursory glance, at once impresses upon us two things—namely, the immense extent and varied character of the charitable funds of London, and the care Mr. Low has expended in obtaining and supplying information concerning them. It is, in short, a most useful catalogue of useful institutions.

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

In the year 1866 the total number of children whose names appeared on the rolls of the national schools in Ireland was 910,819, a decrease of 1·2 per cent as compared with the previous year; the average daily attendance, the mean or average of the numbers actually present in the classes from day to day, was 316,225, a decrease of 1·5 per cent. The Commissioners apprehend that emigration is at last beginning to have a positive influence upon the school-going population. The entire population in Ireland is estimated by the Registrar-General at 5,582,625 in the middle of the year 1866. The returns show the religious denominations of 910,073 of the pupils on the rolls of the national schools in the year: 738,794, or 81·18 per cent, were Roman Catholics; 6·96 per cent belonged to the Established Church, 11·16 per cent to the Presbyterian, and 0·70 to other persuasions. The maximum of mixed education would prevail if the whole of the 171,279 forming the Protestant minority were in attendance in schools frequented by Roman Catholics. This is impossible, because there are some places in the north of Ireland where Protestants constitute the whole population; but of the 171,279 Protestant pupils in national schools 152,412, or 89 per cent, were in attendance in mixed schools. 115,726 Protestant pupils were in 1866 mixing with 29,722 Roman Catholic pupils, in 1106 schools, taught exclusively by Protestant teachers; 13,305 Protestant pupils were mixing with 13,699 Roman Catholic pupils, in 131 schools, taught conjointly by Protestant and Roman Catholic teachers; and 24,381 Protestant pupils were mixing with 321,641 Roman Catholic pupils in 2483 schools taught exclusively by Roman Catholic teachers. The Roman Catholics throughout nearly every part of Ireland avail themselves of the national schools. In the province of Ulster, where Protestants and Roman Catholics are very nearly equal in number, the returns show 51·8 per cent of the national school pupils Roman Catholics and 48·2 per cent Protestants, proving that the national system is alike accepted by both. Of the 947,633 Protestants in that province 152,683, or 1 in 6·2, are shown to be attending national schools; and of the 966,613 Roman Catholics 164,355, or 1 in 5·8, are pupils of national schools. The unmixing schools in Ireland show 18,702 Protestant pupils under Protestant teachers, and 373,756 Roman Catholic pupils under Roman Catholic teachers. Few can deny the advantage of the rule protecting from proselytism pupils in the 3720 mixed national schools; but the rule is as important in reference to the 2658 unmixed schools, in order that all persons may have the privilege of sending their children with a safe conscience to the best-conducted or most convenient school. There are 2483 schools under Roman Catholic teachers attended by Protestant pupils averaging about ten in each school, a number too small to support a separate school; and though at some of these schools the Protestant children may be numerous enough to support a separate school, it is evident that the mixed schools give an education so far satisfactory to the minority that they do not feel it necessary to support a separate school. The returns show the literary proficiency of 659,340 of the pupils on the rolls; as compared with the previous year there is an increase in the percentage of pupils classed in the third and higher books. The classification is 45·39 per cent in the first book, 39·88 in the second book, 1·93 in the sequel, 15·67 in the third book, 7·13 in the fourth and higher books. In the year 1866 the board trained and supported at the public expense 285 teachers; 61 belonged to the Established Church, 137 were Roman Catholics, 75 Presbyterians, and 12 of other persuasions. The board had in their service at the end of the year 1866 5372 principal teachers (4015 of them males), 1838 assistants (71 of them males), and 364 junior literary and industrial assistants, making in all 8172, of whom 3320 have been trained; and also 385 work-mistresses and teachers of the higher industrial branches. This is exclusive of teachers in prison, asylum, and workhouse schools, and of teachers in convent schools. The number of paid monitors in the service of the board in ordinary national schools was 3030, 1209 of them being males. The total amount received by the teaching staff of the schools in connection with the board in the year 1866 appears to have been £302,310, of which the large proportion of 82·88 per cent was provided by the State, and only 17·12 per cent contributed locally. Returns relating to schools with a daily average attendance of 307,028 show £49,523 paid by pupils and £12,441 from subscriptions, making an average of rather over 3s. 5d. per pupil in the year. There are 109 school farms connected with the board, and 145 workhouse schools, the latter having an average daily attendance of 8671, and 17,139 on the rolls in the year. The model schools had 17,642 pupils on the rolls, 4210 of them infants, and an average daily attendance of 7871.



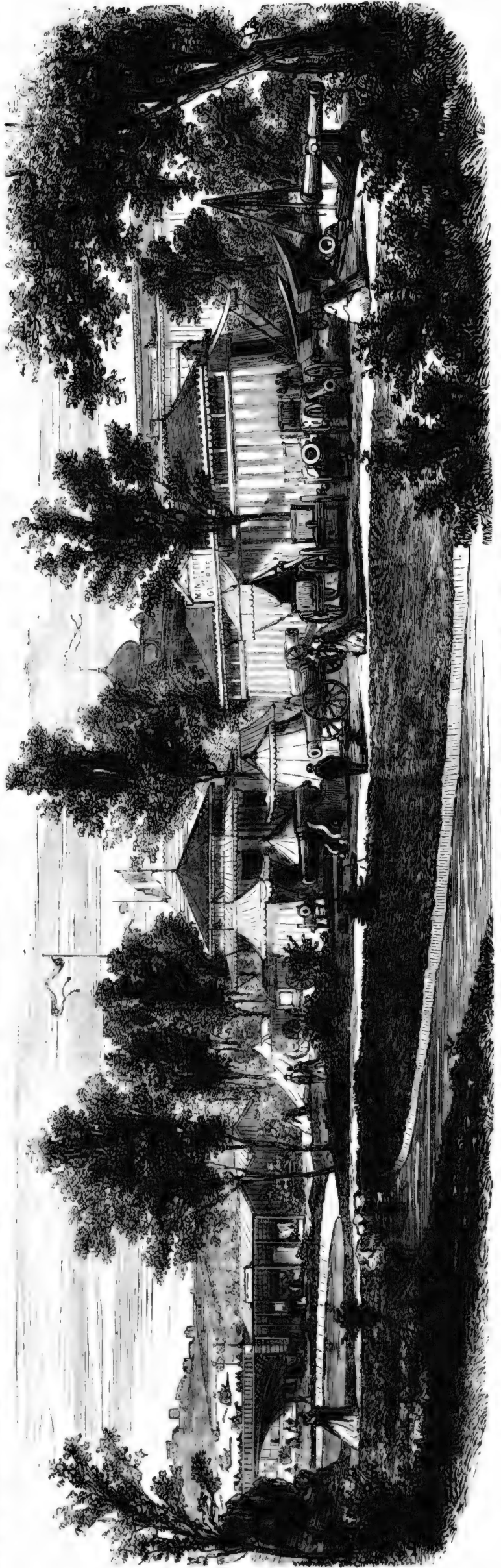
THE PRUSSIAN GARDENS IN THE PARK OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.
THE EASTERN SECTIONS.
The visitor at the French Exhibition finds it very difficult to leave the Oriental portion of that vast display when he has once entered the precincts

of the mosque, the temples, and the Eastern palaces in the park. In fact, although the Exhibition itself represents the whole world, the Oriental portion seems to have been designed and executed with a perfect appreciation and a fidelity to original models which make it especially interesting. Then, again, the arts and manufactures, specimens of which are

included in this section, are attractive by their very conservatism and the remarkable varieties of that conservatism in the contrast of Egypt, China, Japan, and the coast of Barbary. The buildings themselves, moreover, are marvellously enthralling for those who have read of temples, mosques, and

was especially the case a few nights ago, when the few lingerers in the Egyptian park who could not tear themselves away from the 'ascension' of the place were rewarded by a splendid spectacle. The Eastern quarter was suddenly illuminated. The cupola on the summit of the Viceroy was suddenly crowned with a flare of lights, the white dome stood



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE FRENCH MINISTER OF WAR IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

out from the black arcades beneath, and from every ornament in the galleries sprang a bouquet of pearly gas jets. Further on, the okel, or Egyptian restaurant, was encircled by a wreath of flame, and seemed to be a brilliant edifice of fire resting on nothing, since all the lower part was dark, the light above shining brilliantly through the fine wooden fretwork and making it look like magnified lace. The little mosque of Broussa wore a coronet of pearls; and the Bardo, the palace of the Bey of Tunis, showed in the brilliant light its white staircase, guarded by the six lions, and its two pavilions, under their elaborate Moorish roofs. Red fire quivered on its domes and lighted with barbaric splendour; while, in an adjacent tent, a band of Arabs chanted a rude chorus to the sound of a rebeck, or native guitar, and other discordant instruments. It is a great pity that the Egyptian buildings cannot be preserved in the Champ de Mars; they are solidly constructed, and would be lasting monuments of the great show, for the Commission has laboured successfully to reproduce true Egyptian architecture, especially in the temple, of which we lately gave some description. Everything there is a perfect reproduction. The triumphal gate, the alley of sphinxes, the interior and the walls, covered with figures and inscriptions—all are there. It is like looking at Edjou through the wrong end of a telescope, and the whole life of ancient Egypt may be seen in the pictures of potters at work at their wheels, vintners treading the winepress, mariners on the Red Sea, triumphal processions, ship-building, fishing, agriculture—all are shown in these copies of the walls of the half-ruined temple; while, to give greater reality to all these, the temple is also a museum, containing numerous examples of this antique civilisation, brought from the superb collection of Boulak. Amongst these is the statue of Chephren, the founder of the second pyramid, and various other busts and statues executed by the Egyptians ages before Phidias. Among them is a figure of a woman holding in one hand a purse and in the other a whip—a strange realisation of Queen Ameniritis, sister of Sabacon, the founder of the Ethiopian dynasty. This monument has the kind of beauty which we recognise in Greek statues. Then there is the jewel casket of Queen Aah-hotep, discovered by M. Mariette at Thebes, during his explorations;



"THE VESTIBULE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. HEILGUTH.)

golden bracelets with engraved figures on a groundwork of pale blue; necklaces with symbolic figures and flowers; miniatures; a chain of exquisite workmanship and supple as a cord, from which is suspended three golden bees; and other remarkable treasures, of which three golden and six silver hatchets were found in the Royal tomb, as well as highly-finished arms, the most conspicuous being a poniard, the handle formed of four female heads and inlaid with gold lapis and cornelian; the blade, of very hard black bronze, is covered with inscriptions and damascened with flowers. Above all, there is the diadem of the Queen found in her hair and decorated with sphinxes of gold. This is ancient Egypt, and one has only to enter the samelik and the okel to observe what are the differences between the earlier and the later civilisation.

Amongst the objects of interest which seldom fail to attract a number of spectators, there is one in the celebrated Egyptian bazaar which (or rather who) maintains a constant popularity. As the Egyptians are forbidden by their laws to produce the figures of living objects either in painting or sculpture, a good deal of ornamentation formerly fell to the taste of the worker in woods: the doors, ceilings, and windows of dwellings often exhibiting remarkable taste in their patterns and decorations. The turners were principally employed in making the lattice-work of windows, and their trade was flourishing until the glass windows of Europe superseded the old fashion. Like most Egyptian artisans, the turner sits to his work, and his tools seem scarcely to have been improved since the time of the Pharaohs. It may be remarked that the spindle (for there is nothing like a lathe) is set in motion by means of an instrument like our old-fashioned drill-bow, worked by the hand. To turn a large piece of work by this rude machine it is necessary to be able to make use of the feet as well as the hands, as is shown in our Engraving, where the contented-looking old operator calmly guides his knife with his foot in a way which must rouse the indignation of those members of trades unions who object to working even with both hands at once.

The wood-turner, however, is not the only representative of Eastern mechanical skill, nor, in fact, is he the most attractive. His countryman who is engaged in another section of the bazaar in the



FILIGREE JEWELLER AT WORK IN THE EGYPTIAN BAZAAR, PARIS EXHIBITION.

manufacture of that delicate and curious filigree jewellery for which Egypt is famous has generally an interesting crowd of fair faces gazing at his manipulations of gold wire, or trying on rings and bracelets from his small glass case of specimens. In that portion of the machinery gallery, too, which abuts on the Algerine section there are a couple of Moorish kiosques where the same industry is plied by an Algerine jeweller, who sits all day crosslegged before his charcoal fire making rings, brooches, bracelets, pins, and anklets of that strange, dull white metal which has such a rude and massive appearance. He is very popular, not only because he has a good-humoured, handsome face, but also because he speaks French fluently and is delighted to hand round his wares for examination. They are complete centres of industry, these kiosques. Weavers and shoemakers are active in the opposite one; and near the jeweller basketmakers and workers in leather are busy all day long; while a couple of corkcutters—youthful fellows who laugh and chatter regardless of the crowd that watches them—twirl their huge knives with extraordinary rapidity as they follow a trade for which Algeria, with its immense cork-forests, is already celebrated.

Of the palace of the Bey of Tunis we have already spoken at some length; and as it is one of the most attractive as well as most substantial and characteristic buildings in the park of the Exhibition, we publish an Engraving representing the full front on the occasion of its recent inauguration. Nothing could well have been more striking than the appearance of this truly mauresque edifice, with its circular-headed windows; its strangely equal and yet not ungraceful domes; its exquisite elaboration of ornamental detail in wall and roof, and piercings of doors and windows; its dim, shady interior, in which a wealth of beauty and colour was, as it were, gradually revealed. The scene outside was in itself sufficiently striking, for, amidst the gay modern costumes, there appeared the almost motionless figures of draped, bronzed, muffled Arabs, mounted on the tall dromedaries, which rival those of Egypt, and the small, highly-trained, beautiful horses which the Bey, as well as the Viceroy, obtains from the sires and dams of the desert.

MARINE MACHINERY.

Getting away from the eastern section, one not unnaturally turns to that vast department where the modern civilisation declares itself by machinery; and, though it is not very easy to interest general readers by descriptions of engineering technicalities, there are few spectators who do not linger over the big cranks and wheels and levers with an almost hopeless effort to understand their mighty operations. One of the most attractive departments to English visitors is that devoted to marine engines; and, in the shed belonging to the French section, there is generally a little crowd round the superb machinery intended for the Friedland ironclad, now being built at L'Orient. This machine is of the nominal force of 950-horse power, but it is capable of working at high pressure to the extent of above 3000-horse power. It has three cylinders, with reversible connecting rods; and the interior diameter of each cylinder is about 7 ft., while the course of the pistons is about 3½ ft. The engine, when properly fixed, is supplied with eight furnaces, each with four fire-holes, making in all thirty-two.

THE PRUSSIAN SECTION AND GARDENS.

Whatever may have been the first opinions with regard to the Exhibition building, there can no longer be any doubt that it is admirably adapted for its purpose in one respect, the facility with which its topography can be mastered and the consequent ease with which the visitor may pass from one interesting section to another. We have already devoted some attention to the park, the outdoor buildings, and the gardens devoted to the various national palaces and pavilions, and on leaving the eastern section of the Champ de Mars we almost naturally turn in a direction which leads us to the more stern and sober displays of the European Powers. One of the least picturesque, although, perhaps, not the least suggestive, of these is the garden attached to the Prussian section. Prussia particularly requested to have a garden of her own, and it has been laid out by gardeners who brought the roots and plants (some French critics declare that they brought the very mould) from near Berlin. It must be confessed, however, that the result is scarcely in accordance with the great amount of fuss made about the matter, for the Prussian garden is by no means remarkably attractive, and only receives dignity from the buildings by which it is nearly surrounded. The Prussian annexes could not fail, however, to attract a good deal of attention, for they exhibit just what everybody now expects to see, great specimens of monster guns and engines of war, as well as machinery of a colossal character.

Of course, the mighty monster of all is Krupp's 15-in. rifled breech-loading gun. It is entirely made of steel, in three principal parts—the inner tube, which extends from end to end of the piece, and two layers of superimposed steel hoops. Considered as a grand mass of worked metal, nothing can be finer; but it is said to be very defective as a piece of artillery. Krupp's monster gun is the first of the kind that has been made. The muzzle is disproportionately thick, and has the appearance of having been shortened; and the breech-closing apparatus has a clumsy look. No steel-maker has yet succeeded in rivaling Krupp, however, in dealing with large masses of the metal. He supplies the Prussian and Russian Governments; and, though the latter have erected works of their own, and desire to be rid of their dependence on a Prussian manufacturer, they have not yet arrived at Krupp's power, as is evidenced by the unfinished guns in the Russian machinery department. The weight of the huge gun exhibited is, roughly, 50 tons; and the weight of the projectile is said in Mr. Krupp's list to be 1000 Prussian pounds, or half an English ton. The charge is said to weigh about 1 cwt.; but it must be remembered that the vast metallurgical specimen has never yet been fired. Mr. Krupp shows two other heavy guns, a 9-in. and a 6-in., both breech-loaders. The 9-in. has fired 120 rounds with charges of about 45 lb. English, the weight of the projectile being about 300 lb. The two lesser guns are far better proportioned than the one already mentioned, the length of the barrel according with the slow-burning Prussian powder. And here we may remark that the powder used in England for rifled ordnance is unusually strong and quick-burning. The French found that their guns would not stand its force. Our charges also are higher than those of other countries, since we always regard penetrating power as one of the principal objects to be attained, and our trials are mostly directed to the destruction of metal plating.

SECTION OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF WAR.

Of course the section of the French Ministry of War is one of the most important portions of the Exhibition, and, although the display of artillery does not include those metal monsters which distinguish the English and the Prussian annexes, many of the pieces are of exquisite proportions and fine finish. The French have tried two systems of breech-loading successively; in the present one the charge and projectile are introduced at the breech, and behind them an iron plate, with a large central hole. The breech is closed by a system in which the breech-plug forms the back of the gun behind the charge, and is screwed in like that of the Armstrong muzzle-loaders; but as it has to be entered and withdrawn rapidly, a portion of its holding power is sacrificed to shorten the operation. Opinions seem to differ in France as to the benefits conferred by this system, for while it has been adopted by the Navy, the War Department has discarded it. One of the great features of the section of the Ministry of War, however, is the model of the camp at Châlons, with the Imperial tent and the altar, where mass is performed every Sunday, both shown in miniature; and those visitors who after a few minutes grow a little tired of inspecting great black or bronzed tubes of steel and of hearing contentions about trajectories, and power of penetration, and chilled shot, and solid casting, and all the rest of it, may find an agreeable change in the garden wherein the sheds of the annexes have been erected.

A NEW LINE OF SCREW-STEAMERS is announced by Messrs. Howden to commence running from London to Rio Janeiro, Montevideo, and Buenos Ayres, on the 21st inst. The charge for passengers is to be £30 to Rio and £35 to the River Plate.

"THE VESTIBULE."

OUR Illustration, which is taken from one of the most attractive pictures in the French Fine-Art Exhibition in Paris, is one of those compositions for which M. Heilbuth has already become famous, and should be a comfort to those English people who fancy that they alone are overdone by flunkeyism. Here we have, portrayed from the life, a group of fancy servants attached to the great Cardinal himself; and the vestibule is the entrance where suitors, striving to hide their hopes and fears from the be-plushed or be-velveted lacquies, at the same time envy the full-fed, comfortable varlets as they lounge round the brazier of charcoal, which serves to take off the damp chill in the lobby of the monsignorial palace. Perhaps even the Lord Cardinal himself, sitting in the great Lord Cardinal's great red hat, and plum-coloured shoes, and scarlet stockings, may only feel a trembling desire to propitiate Giacomo, Giuseppe, or Pietro, knowing, alas! how few men can keep their worst secrets from the prying eye that waits behind the chair, or looks in at the little glass pane at the back of the carriage, to which the bulgy calves are such an ornament. Cardinals are men—at least they have some of the weaknesses, if they have also all the virtues, of mankind—and even the most powerful of them all may only fear that council which is held in the kitchen of the dim, dark, drowsy old palace,—that *vehmergericht*, that carbonari meeting of cooks and coachmen,—who pass judgment and seem so silently respectful. Think of a footman being the mystery of a Cardinal's life, and the quiet, respectful face at the back of the sacred chair winking behind a screen, and you have a something which cannot be laid by bell, book, or candle—an unknown quantity, always lying in wait to stultify the private calculations of self-sufficiency and harmless vanity. One may almost imagine not only the poor suitors, but the Cardinal himself, going shuddering and muttering to himself, with downcast eyes and faltering limbs, as he creeps through that cold, distrustful-looking vestibule, and marks the air of the men who lie in wait for him there.

THE OPERAS.

AT the Royal Italian Opera the season just come to an end has been above all distinguished by the admirable manner in which the two great European novelties of the year—"Don Carlos" and "Romeo and Juliet"—have been represented. The season commenced, on April 2, with "Norma," supported by Mmes. Vilda and Lemmers-Sherrington, and MM. Naudin and Altiri. Soon afterwards "Faust" was played, when a new singer (M. Petit) made his appearance in the part of Mephistopheles. M. Petit was the original Mephistopheles of the Théâtre Lyrique, for which establishment "Faust" was written, and we have therefore a right to suppose that he is the Mephistopheles after M. Gounod's own heart. He plays the part, however, rather too grotesquely to please our public, many of whom have a certain conception of the Mephistopheles of Goethe. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to compare Gounod's opera with Goethe's dramatic poem. M. Gounod may have provoked the comparison, but it is not at all certain that he ever intended to do so. In the character of Valentino a baritone named Guadagnini appeared, without producing any great effect. Mlle. Pauline Lucca again undertook the part of Margherita, and continued to represent it throughout the season; and Mario, the incomparable, re-appeared as Faust. Signor Cotogni, a baritone of some promise, made his debut as Nelusco, in the "Africaine," and acted as general substitute for Graziani until the arrival of that admirable baritone. Signor Graziani, whose first performance this season was in the "Ballo in Maschera," has identified himself with the personage of Renato in that work, and his expressive singing of Renato's very beautiful air in the last act is one of his most successful achievements. The part of the page, Oscar, was assumed by Mlle. Nau, a clever, well-taught young lady, with a delicate and flexible but very slender voice.

The production of "The Marriage of Figaro" was remarkable, above all, for Mlle. Pauline Lucca's spirited, graceful, thoroughly fascinating impersonation of Cherubino. "The Marriage of Figaro," announced last year with an evidently impossible cast, was given this year with a very tolerable one. But all that was really memorable in the performance was the Cherubino of Mlle. Lucca. Mlle. Lucca also appeared with renewed success as Zerlina, in "Fra Diavolo." Mr. Gye has been rather badly off this season for tenors. Signor Mario, in the matter of style, and in many other respects, is still unapproachable; but Signor Mario cannot sing in every opera that is brought out; and Signor Fancelli and Signor Naudin are very feeble substitutes for him. Mr. Gye is even worse off for contraltos. The engagement of a strong dramatic soprano, of a second robust tenor to alternate first parts with Signor Mario, and a really good contralto, would make Mr. Gye's company the strongest in Europe.

Mlle. Adelina Patti has appeared in many, but by no means all, her best parts. The return of Mlle. Patti to the scene of her earliest European triumphs is made each year the occasion of a sort of operatic festival. This season she received her welcome in the part of Rosina, and certainly no welcome could have been more cordial. As Amina, as Lucia, as Zerlina in "Don Giovanni," Mlle. Patti exercised her usual charms upon the public, but her greatest success was reserved for the end of the season. This she was destined to achieve in the opera of "Romeo e Giulietta," which owes a great portion of its attractiveness to the very admirable manner in which Mlle. Patti sustains the part of the heroine. Mlle. Patti's acting is charming in the earlier scenes; in the later ones she displays a dramatic intensity which proves her, more than anything else that she has done, to be an actress of true tragic power. For the very picturesque and complete manner in which "Romeo e Giulietta" has been put upon the stage Mr. Augustus Harris has to be thanked. His *mise en scène* is, we have been assured, in many respects, a great improvement on that of the Théâtre Lyrique, where the effect of the traditional balcony scene was marred altogether. But all who were engaged in the production of "Romeo e Giulietta" at the Royal Italian Opera did their best; and of no one can this be said more emphatically than of Mr. Costa, the able and indefatigable musical conductor.

If "The Magic Flute" was ever to be appreciated in this country, it was last week, as played at Her Majesty's Theatre. The cast with which it had been previously represented at this establishment was already very strong, and this was strengthened in a most important manner by the assignment of the part of the Queen of the Night to Mlle. Christine Nilsson. Of Mlle. Nilsson's marvellous execution of the air "Gli Angeli d'Inferno" at the Philharmonic concerts and the Crystal Palace, we have already had occasion to speak; on the operatic stage her admirable singing of both the airs given to Astrafiamante is not more remarkable than is her general dramatic conception of the part. A real living queen of the night was something new to us and new to everyone who now saw Mlle. Nilsson in the character for the first time. We have spoken in particular of Mlle. Nilsson's performance in this opera, because it was especially with a view to its exhibition that the work was brought out this season. Mlle. Titiens did for the part of Pamina, the Queen of the Night's daughter, much what Mlle. Nilsson did for that of the Queen of the Night, and sang the beautiful air "La dove prende" to perfection. This, like both Astrafiamante's airs, was encored. Mr. Santley, as Papageno; Signor Rokitansky, as Sarastro; Signor Gardoni, as Tamino; and Mr. Charles Lyall, as Monostatos, contributed in due proportion to the success of this very remarkable performance.

POSTAL NOTICE.—At the request of the Government of Victoria, the transmission in the mails sent via Panama, of newspapers, books, and packets of patterns or samples of merchandise, addressed to the colony of Victoria, will be discontinued, and in future only such letters and packets will be sent to Victoria by that route as are fully prepaid at the letter rate of postage—viz., sixpence per half ounce, and are specially addressed to be so forwarded. No alteration will be made as regards the transmission of newspapers, books, and patterns in the mails via Suez.

THE YELVERTON CASE.

THE House of Lords, on Tuesday, gave judgment in this case, which was an appeal from the judgment of the Court of Session in Scotland. In November, 1864, Major the Hon. Charles William Yelverton presented a petition to the Court of Session in Scotland praying that the judgment of the House of Lords (which declared that no marriage had taken place between the present appellant and respondent) should be applied. On Nov. 28 the present appellant, Miss Longworth, gave in a minute craving that consideration to her petition should be superseded, and that she should be called to give in a condensation of *res noviter*, and to lead evidence of certain facts that had come to her knowledge after the judgment. The Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland decided that she could not at that stage be allowed to aver and prove any *res noviter*, and refused to sustain the proposed reference of the case to the respondent's oath; and from this judgment Miss Longworth appealed to the House of Lords.

The Lord Chancellor in delivering judgment said that, whatever might have been the practice in former times, since the statute of 4 George IV. and 1 William IV. such a proceeding as a reference to oath under circumstances similar to those in the present appeal was incompetent. It certainly ought not to be permitted in any case where the rights and interests of third parties who were no parties to the litigation were concerned. It appeared that after the time of the alleged marriage with the appellant the respondent was married, in June, 1858, to Mrs. Forbes. If, therefore, upon a reference to oath a decree establishing the first marriage was pronounced, it must necessarily deprive Mrs. Forbes of her status as a wife, and therefore the interests of a third party were involved. Again, if the respondent were to admit the alleged marriage between himself and the appellant, he must confess that he had been guilty of bigamy. It was said that the Act 15 and 16 Victoria removed all impediments against taking the evidence of persons convicted of crime. Such was the argument of the appellant on this point, but she left out of view one important consideration. It was true a party might refuse to answer if he thought he would criminate himself, but then he was taken to confess the facts referred to his oath, and exactly the same benefit arose to the party from his silence as if he had given an affirmative answer. Under all the circumstances he came to the conclusion that the Court of Session were right in refusing to sustain the reference to oath. There could be no doubt that it was in the equitable discretion of the Court to allow or refuse the reference, and the Court of Session were perfectly justified in the exercise of such judicial discretion in refusing to sustain it.

Lord Cranworth said that his noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor had shown him his judgment, and as he fully concurred in it, it was not necessary for him to offer any observations to their Lordships. There was no question that reference to oath had been permitted in some matrimonial cases; but, if there had been no marriage with Mrs. Forbes, he doubted whether there would have been any reference to oath in this case, because in a declarator of marriage there must necessarily be, under all circumstances, the interests of third parties involved. On general principles, his Lordship thought that such references should be excluded in all cases of this sort.

Lord Westbury said it was not his intention to take any part in the judgment of their Lordships, as he had been compelled, from a severe domestic misfortune, to be absent from the House during a portion of the argument. He had, however, the advantage of hearing the whole of the appellant's address, and if he had thought there was any reasonable ground for believing the appeal could be sustained he should, out of feeling for the appellant, have endeavoured to hear the rest of the argument; but he was obliged to say that, after listening to that address, he could see no reason why the judgment of the Court below upon this question should be reversed.

Lord Colonsay said that after the opinions which had been expressed by the noble Lords who had preceded him, the case was practically decided. But in a case of this sort he considered it most desirable that the law of Scotland should be made clear on so important a point as that before their Lordships. When the subject first came under his consideration, in an earlier stage, he came to the conclusion that the reference could not be sustained. Since that, he had considered the case more fully, and saw no ground for altering his view. Having explained very minutely the law of Scotland as it bore upon this point, the noble Lord said he had come to the conclusion that there was no ground in this case for sustaining the reference, and that the judgment of the Court below ought to be affirmed.

The judgment of the Court of Session in Scotland, which refused to sustain the proposed reference of the case to the respondent's oath, was therefore affirmed, and the appeal dismissed with costs.

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.—If we are not misinformed, the result of the identical language which has been held at Berlin by the representatives of France and Russia is likely to produce excellent results. The Prussian Government is represented as being very willing to listen to the friendly advice which has been tendered to it; and we may therefore look for a satisfactory solution of the North Schleswig question which has given rise to so many unwarrantable surmises.—*Post*.

ALLOWANCES TO DISGRACED OFFICERS.—A return has been issued of the cases in which officers who had been dismissed from the Indian army during the last ten years have been granted subsistence money, the nature of the offences for which those officers were dismissed, and the amount granted in each case. It appears from this return that in 1858 a surgeon, of twenty-one years' service, was dismissed for disgraceful conduct, and granted £120 subsistence money; in 1859 a Captain, fifteen years' service, intemperate habits, £50; in 1860 a Lieutenant, fourteen years' service, drunk on duty and cashiered by sentence of court-martial, £60; in 1862 a Major, twenty-seven years' service, abuse of official authority, £292; in 1863 a Captain, twenty-three years' service, fraud, and cashiered by sentence of court-martial, £50; in 1864 a Captain, twenty-two years' service, intemperate habits, £100; in 1865 a Lieutenant, ten years' service, inefficiency, £50; in 1866 a Captain, nineteen years' service, intemperance, £50; in 1866, also, a Lieutenant, six years' service, fraud, £35; in 1867 a Captain and Brevet Major, twenty-five years' service, cashiered by sentence of court-martial for embezzlement, £50; also in 1867, a Captain, seventeen years' service, intemperate habits, £50.

A WELL-EARNED HONOUR.—The services rendered to maritime commerce by Mr. William Mitchell have been deemed worthy of recognition by the Crown, and the honour of knighthood has been conferred upon him. In 1840, when in the exercise of his duties as a daily journalist, Mr. Mitchell became impressed with the importance of testing, by properly-constituted boards of examiners, the qualification and competency of all who undertake the command of our merchant ships. In these days of competitive examinations, it will scarcely appear credible that up to the period referred to any person could take to sea a British merchant ship, however deficient in the necessary nautical practice and knowledge of navigation—or indeed, knowledge of any kind whatever. At length, at his instigation, the subject was brought before Parliament, which led to an enactment making it compulsory on all who aspired to the command of our merchant vessels to undergo an examination by a properly-constituted board to prove their capabilities for such responsible duties. In 1857 Mr. Mitchell took an active part, with the late Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen, in the preparation of a measure, now in full operation, for a naval reserve of able seamen, to be available in any emergency for the defence of the country. But the services which have been rendered by Mr. Mitchell in the establishment of "The Commercial Code of Signals, for the Use of all Nations" are among the most recent, if not the most useful, of his labours. The Royal Commission appointed in 1855 to determine the best system of sea signals showed conclusively that the commercial code, presenting an entirely new system of signalling, was far superior to every other code, being the only one applicable to international communication and capable of universal adoption. He was, therefore, induced to take the work in hand and to endeavour to carry out the design of the Royal Commission. After several years of labour and of outlay, it is now adopted, to the exclusion of every other code, by France, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Greece, Italy, Austria, Prussia, Spain, and Portugal. It has been more or less in use in American ships for several years; but the late civil war prevented its general adoption. It is now, however, under the consideration of the United States Government, with a view to its official recognition as "a universal sea language;" whilst France and Portugal have the code in full operation at their various semaphore establishments, as well as at sea. It should further be stated that Mr. Mitchell has been for some time engaged in establishing a network of signal stations around our coast—corresponding with similar semaphores on the coasts of France and Portugal—for the purpose of reporting the movements of all ships of whatever country, carrying the commercial code of signals. Mr. Mitchell, who is the editor and proprietor of the *Shipping Gazette*, has been for many years a county magistrate, and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Issued by the British College of Health, Euston-road, London, for the Society of Hygienists, July 27, 1907.

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London: Printed and Published at the Office, 3, Catherine-street, in the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of Middlesex, by THOMAS FOX, 3, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867.